

# Oxfordshire Guardian

Didcot, Wallingford & Thame

Thursday, March 8 - Wednesday, March 14, 2018

oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

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Keeping warm in the snow at wildlife park

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Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford



## Two weeks to go until new stores open up their doors



By Owen Hughes

TWO weeks today customers will be able to shop at the new M&S Food Hall, TK Maxx, H&M, Boots and Starbucks at the expanded Orchard Centre.

The retail giants are the first to confirm the March 22 opening date for the £50million development.

The staggered opening will see TK Maxx first to cut the metaphorical ribbon at 9am, followed by M&S at 10am, and H&M an hour later.

Phase II of the 8,825sqm extension

has been anchored by the flagship M&S Food Hall.

Store manager Matt Eastgate said: "My team and I are really excited to reveal our opening date and can't wait to show the community what we've been working on.

"We're counting down the days and once we're open we'll be ensuring we put our customers at the heart of everything we do."

The store will be open Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm, and 11am to 4pm on Sundays, and feature a 48-seat M&S Café and a team of 50

locally recruited staff.

The H&M store measures around 1,500sqm and will offer its first 200 customers an exclusive goodie bag.

All those in the queue before 11am will receive a 25 per cent discount for the day.

Carlos Duarte, H&M's country manager for UK & Ireland, said: "We are delighted to be opening a brand new store in Didcot.

"This new location is an exciting opportunity for the brand to expand and bring our fantastic fashion offering to customers."

Clothing retailer TK Maxx will create up to 40 jobs at its 1,400sqm store.

Last month, developer Hammerson announced the much-anticipated addition of popular chicken restaurant Nando's at the entrance to a new restaurant area.

Andrew Berger-North, a director at developers Hammerson, said: "We are delighted to be opening the first phase of stores.

"Over 60 per cent of the new floor space has already been let, and a number of exciting brands are

currently under offer or in advanced talks to take space in Didcot for the first time."

Councillor Jane Murphy, deputy leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This will really help to attract more people to the area and I look forward to seeing more shops and restaurants opening in the coming weeks."

An additional 325 parking spaces will be provided for shoppers, bringing the total up to 875 at the Orchard Centre. There will also be more cycle racks for customers.

More printed copies than any other weekly newspaper in Oxfordshire (16,103 audited JICREG pending)

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 davis tate

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## News

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# Roger Bannister tributes: 'A legend and inspiration'

By Owen Hughes

A 'LIVING legend' and a 'man of great distinction' are just two of the tributes that have been paid to Sir Roger Bannister who died on Saturday, aged 88.

Sir Roger ensured his place among the sporting greats when he became the first man to run a mile in under four minutes.

He only held the record achieved at the Iffley Road sports ground in Oxford on May 6, 1954 for 46 days but it was enough to earn his place in the history books.

A statement from his family said: "Sir Roger Bannister, died peacefully in Oxford on 3 March, aged 88, surrounded by his family who were as loved by him, as he was loved by them.

"He banked his treasure in the hearts of his friends."

The middle-distance runner studied and worked at the University of Oxford where he was an active member of the Athletics Club, achieving victories in the Varsity Match Mile (1948, 1949 and 1950) and cross country (1949).

In a career littered with outstanding sporting achievements, Sir Roger became Empire & Commonwealth Champion at the mile in 1954, European Champion at 1500m, and was fourth at the 1952 Olympic Games.

He was awarded a knighthood in 1975 before his appointment as president of the World Sports Council



Sir Roger Bannister pictured with the shoes he wore to break the record - they were sold at auction in September 2015 for £266,500

the following year.

In 1977, he became the first Briton to win West Germany's Hans-Heinrich Siegbert prize for services to sport.

In addition to his prowess on the track, Sir Roger was also a globally renowned neurologist, doctor and academic.

Ever humble, he said: "None of my athletics was the greatest achievement.

"My medical work has been my achievement and my family with 14 grandchildren. Those are real achievements."

Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, said: "Roger Bannister epitomised what it means to be a living legend.

"He was a regular presence at university events and remained

committed to Oxford University to the end, engaging with students, challenging academics, and inspiring all of us."

Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of Oxford University, said he was "a man of great distinction" and "we will miss him enormously".

Lord Coe, president of athletics' world governing body the IAAF, two-time Olympic 1500m gold medallist for Great Britain, said: "There is not a single athlete of my generation who was not inspired by Roger and his achievements both on and off the track."

Sir Roger had been diagnosed with the neurological disorder Parkinson's disease in 2011, adding: "It's in the nature of things, there's a gentle irony to it."

## InBrief

### Burglar sought

AN e-fit image of a man police want to speak to in connection with a burglary in Botley has been released.

A thief stole jewellery, ornaments, clothing and cash from Denton Close between 8am and 7.10pm on January 30.



The man in the e-fit is described as white, in his early thirties, around 6ft 1in tall and of an average build with noticeably clear skin.

He was wearing a long sleeved, light grey jacket, light coloured workman's trousers and black and white trainers.

Contact police on 101 if you have information.

### £9m for cancer trials

AN Oxford-based cancer vaccine firm has secured around £9million in funding to create two clinical trials to treat cervical cancer and solid tumours.

A consortium of South Korean and Chinese investors provided biopharma company Oxford Vacmedix with the funds to complete its preclinical development.

OVM founder Shisong Jiang said: "We hope our effort will eventually benefit the health of many patients."

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### Is it a car or a snow drift in middle of the road?

A car almost totally submerged by last week's snow was spotted by a member of the South Central Ambulance Service.

Call handler Karen was travelling home from her shift

on Sunday when she saw the white front bumper poking out from underneath several feet of snow.

She spotted the buried car on Charlbury Road, the B4026 in north Oxfordshire, and took

to social media to raise the alarm.

An SCAS tweet said: "Call handler Karen [is] keen to let the owner of this vehicle know that it is now slowly reappearing out of the snow!"

## Son follows in father's footsteps and treads boards at theatre

THERE was a poignant twist when theatre director Edward Hall officially re-opened the Wallingford Corn Exchange on Friday - nearly 40 years after his dad Sir Peter Hall first opened it.

After a £650,000 renovation programme to replace the roof, heating and ventilation and several items of theatre equipment, the Corn Exchange finally reopened its doors in January with a performance of *Cinderella*.

The popular Market Place venue is also resplendent with new seats and carpet and freshly painted walls.

Edward, who grew up in the town, said: "It's a delight to look round a theatre like this where all the departments are under one roof.

"That is something quite rare, even in professional theatres.

"It is the people who give soul to a company and what we see is how you



have managed to retain the heritage of this building and at the same time create an environment with soul.

"The Corn Exchange is a fabulous theatre, run by such a passionate, dedicated group of people which I have no doubt, will be thriving forty years further down the line."

Sir Peter, director of the National Theatre in the 1970s and 1980s, opened the Corn Exchange in December 1978 when it had been converted from a



derelict building over a three year period by volunteers.

Visit [cornexchange.org.uk](http://cornexchange.org.uk) for more information.

Edward Hall reopened the new-look Corn Exchange with Gloria Wright from Sinodun Players - 40 years after Sir Peter Hall first opened it

## Three weeks to save The Crown

By George Welch

IT is now or never for a campaign group rapidly running out of time to save a much-valued former pub.

The newly-formed South Moreton Community Benefit Society has 23 days to raise more than £100,000 and rescue The Crown in Crown Lane.

Villagers have until March 31 to raise at least £230,000 as community shares to stimulate match-funding and grant initiatives that are hoped to bring the total to around £530,000. Around £125,000 has been raised so far.

Paul Jackson, chairman of the SMCBS, launched the share offer and business case for buying The Crown and restoring it as a community pub and café on Saturday.

He said: "Even before this share offer launch, we have received pledges amounting to around £125,000 from 94 local people.

"That's fantastic, however we really now need to almost double that amount.

"Similar fundraising exercises for other community pubs showed that they could massively increase shareholdings in the final weeks of the campaign, so I'm sure that South

Moreton and our local friends can do it."

The Crown was closed and sold by Wadworth Breweries to property developers Worthmore Investments in 2015, but since then villagers have defended the site as an asset of community value.

This means the community has an exclusive right to offer to buy the pub during a moratorium period - but this runs out in the next few weeks.

Campaigners had to wait until this month to formally set up the SMCBS, meaning time is running out to save their favourite drinking house.

More than 60 people attended the

quiz night and fish-and-chip dinner to launch the appeal, which doubled up as a fundraiser for the upkeep of South Moreton church.

The evening was organised by resident Helen Ball who praised the village's 'vibrant community spirit'.

A drop-in session to answer any questions will be held at South Moreton School on Wednesday next week from 6pm to 8pm.

Shares will be priced at £50 each, with five being the minimum that can be bought.

To view the business case and to download the form to purchase shares visit [savethecrownpub.co.uk](http://savethecrownpub.co.uk)

## InBrief

### Robbery charges

A WOMAN threatened in an attempted robbery took shelter in a stranger's car after fleeing the attack.

The 38-year-old was targeted at 8.30am on Friday in Tamar Way, Didcot. After running from the scene she stopped a passing car and the driver let her shelter inside.

Two 18-year-old men have been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery.

Sam Weller, of Pipkin Way, Oxford, and Josh Eggleton-Hart, of Tavistock Avenue, Didcot, have both been charged.

Weller is also charged with possession of an offensive weapon.

They were arrested on Friday and charged on Saturday when they also appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court. They were granted conditional bail, pending a hearing at Oxford Crown Court on April 9.

Call police on 101 with information.

### Motorist sought

POLICE are on the hunt for a driver who struck a 13-year-old boy before fleeing the scene.

A silver Volkswagen hatchback hit the boy on a zebra crossing on Ham Road, in Wantage, shortly after midday on Sunday. It then left the scene.

The teenager sustained minor injuries during the collision.

Police are particularly keen to speak to the driver of a dark coloured Land Rover or similar shaped vehicle that was in the area at the time.

Call police on 101 if you can help.

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## Country estate plan for former boarding school

A REDUNDANT boarding school near Abingdon could be reborn as part of a 'country estate' style development of more than 40 homes.

Millgate Homes wants to convert the former Parklands Campus site, to the north of the A420 between Appleton and Besselsleigh, into 17 flats and 27 three- and four-bedroomed houses.

Apart from the western part of the 19th century manor house, all existing buildings, including dated homes, garages and a stable block, will be demolished and replaced.

A design and access statement submitted with the application said: "The proposed development grouped the new buildings in specific character areas that was compatible with the narrative of a small country estate with the manor house at its heart.

"Original features guided the laying out of the proposal, creating a new stable court and buildings grouped within the remnants of the walled garden."

Formerly Bessels Leigh School, the site was taken over by children's charity Action for Children and renamed as Spires School in 2009.

The school, which taught pupils with autism, ADHD and behavioural difficulties, became Parklands Campus in 2011 before closing in 2016.

To comment before the March 21 deadline, visit [tinyurl.com/yajjhmu2](http://tinyurl.com/yajjhmu2)

## Tattoo celebrates the 'lucky few'

OXFORDSHIRE parents who have children with Down's Syndrome travelled to Abingdon on Saturday to get a special tattoo.

The 'three arrows' tattoo aims to raise greater awareness about the disability, representing three copies of the 21st chromosome, which people with Down's Syndrome are born with, and the arrows symbolise moving forward.

Helen Kingdon, from Wallingford, organised the event at Acreedo Tattoos and Body Piercings in Abingdon.

Helen, who has a daughter with Down's Syndrome, said: "I like that it will give me the opportunity to talk about Down's Syndrome because it will be quite a visible tattoo on my wrist."

"People will more than likely ask about it and it will open the door for a conversation."

Dubbed the 'Lucky Few'



Helen Kingdon with husband Matt and daughter Seren, aged seven

Tattoo' on social media, the concept originated in the USA but is now increasingly popular in the UK among parents, family members, carers and friends of people with Down's Syndrome.

## Demolition for burnt-out council office

DEMOLITION work on burnt-out council offices destroyed in an arson attack could begin next week.

The fire-wrecked offices in Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford were torched in January 2015.

Since then, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Council staff have been in temporary accommodation at Milton Park.

Rebuilding from the ashes was ruled out and council leaders

have instead opted to demolish the remains and start again, a decision that was taken last year.

A planning application submitted by SODC, which owns the land, last month said bulldozers could move in on Wednesday and that demolition could take until July 14 to complete.

The application added: "It has been decided that the building is unsuitable for re-use due to problems with its structural integrity.

"The most cost effective solution will be to redevelop the site."

Andrew Main, 47, from Rokemarsh, near Wallingford, admitted starting the blaze and was detained in a mental health unit in May 2015. The arsonist caused about £20million of damage and intended to kill himself with a chainsaw after starting four fires.

In total 144 fire fighters, 27 crews and 14 specialist vehicles battled the blaze from about 3am on January 15, 2015 for two days.

# Bowled over by £250k grant for new pavilion

## Club thrilled with cash to build modern facility

By George Welch

AN 'ambitious' new sports clubhouse is a step closer after Thame Sports Club received a hefty £250,000 grant.

The cash boost makes up nearly half of the estimated £554,000 needed to demolish the current facility and to replace it with a modern pavilion.

The original part of the clubhouse was built in the 1920s and is in poor condition, especially the roof and much of the woodwork. It also has little insulation and is expensive to heat during the winter months.

Thames Sports Club management committee chairman Peter Bozier said the club is "thrilled" to receive the grant for its 'necessary' rebuilding project.

He added: "It is very important to us, as without it we would have little chance of raising the money for our ambitious and very necessary project to go ahead. We hope to be able to raise the rest of the money in time to start in October, so the rebuilding would take place during the bowls club close season."



The club is home to the town's tennis and bowls club, but the clubhouse doubles up as a community building where many other groups get together, including art, wine appreciation and toddler groups.

The Chiltern Grove club has now raised around 70 per cent of the required money and the latest cash injection should make it easier for the club to attract the rest.

The rebuild committee is aiming to start work in October with completion by the end of March next year.

South Oxfordshire District Council awarded the grant.

Lynn Lloyd, the council's cabinet

member for community services, said: "I am absolutely delighted that we were able to make such a substantial contribution towards the rebuilding of the clubhouse, which has been a part of Thame for almost a century.

"However, all those years of use have taken their toll and a full rebuild will make it a wonderful community hub for generations to come."

New designs could mean the clubhouse could accommodate indoor bowling, allowing the bowls club to compete in winter leagues.

To see the plans, visit [tinyurl.com/yd9h92ne](http://tinyurl.com/yd9h92ne)

## InBrief

### Grounds for change

DILAPIDATED sports changing facilities in Didcot could be replaced with new accommodation for wider community use.

Didcot Town Council has launched a consultation on the long-term future of Edmonds Park Recreation Site and Loyd Road Recreation Ground.

The council is keen to hear from individuals and groups who might be interested in bringing something new to the Park Road and Brasenose Road sites and make them as useful and cost effective as possible.

All questionnaires will be entered into a draw to be in with a chance of winning a three-month membership at Willowbrook Leisure Centre.

For more information and to complete the questionnaire online before April 20 visit [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Didcot](http://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Didcot)

### Cricket club cash

SUNNINGWELL Cricket Club near Abingdon are hoping to raise £5,000 in funds for a new training facility and junior match surface.

The village cricket club has already secured £6,000 but is now turning to the public to help it knock its £13,000 target for six.

A spokesperson said the development would "offer more inclusive opportunities" for junior and youth players.

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# New 999 system delayed and set to cost extra £3m

By Owen Hughes

A NEW computer system that could revolutionise the way police forces in the region deal with emergency calls is delayed and is £3million over budget.

Originally scheduled to be rolled out by Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary in March, delays have set the now £30.6m project back until late spring.

The modernised system will replace "outdated systems" and improve the way both forces handle 999 and 101 calls.

Through the software, operators will gain instant access to information on screen about a caller.

The smart software will also display data about recent crimes in the area and recommend the most appropriate resources to deploy.

The decision to delay the launch until late spring was made in November to allow for extensive testing.

Chief Superintendent Christian Bunt said the "cutting edge system" developed in conjunction with Microsoft will "help both forces work more closely together".

He added: "As it is such a crucial system, we always knew it would need to undergo rigorous testing before the



Control room operations manager Nikky Dumbleton said they received more than 300,000 calls last year

planned implementation date.

"This involved integrating it with numerous other operation systems.

"We cannot afford to take risks with something that is so fundamental to us delivering a service to the public, so when testing revealed that extra work needed to be done, our operation view was that the testing phase should be extended."

The forces will be the first in the UK to use the new system, which has the potential for crimes to be reported online.

Staff at Abingdon Police Station's control room received more than

300,000 calls to the 999 emergency number last year, representing an increase of 12 per cent on 2016.

Nikky Dumbleton, operations manager, told this newspaper in January that "better signposting" could help reduce that figure.

According to a report, more than two per cent of 999 calls to TVP were unanswered in the three months to June, compared with 1.6 per cent in the same quarter for 2016.

The number of abandoned 999 calls to Hampshire Constabulary rose from 0.9 per cent to 1.6 per cent in the same period.

Court hears two men were killed in savage attack

TWO men's bodies found in a Banbury flat in October were killed in a sustained and savage attack.

Jurors at Oxford Crown Court were told that Mark Pawley, 25, was stabbed more than 20 times in a vicious attack, while Adrian Fannon, 39, received at least 10 stab wounds.

The type of injuries suffered by the two men suggested they had attempted to defend themselves during the attack, the court heard.

Owner of the flat in Newland Road, Raymond Morgan, 53, denies two counts of murder.

Officers discovered the bodies after forcing entry into the home at around 6.45am on October 1 last year. Two knives and a broken chair were found with blood on the walls, sofa and TV.

Mr Fannon's naked body was found propped up against a TV stand, while Mr Pawley's partially clothed body was discovered in a different part of the living room.

All three men were heroin and cocaine addicts, the prosecution said.

Morgan provided three different accounts of the incident to police, including a version where he stabbed both men after an epileptic fit.

In another version of the story he blamed two black men, and said the victims attacked each other before turning on him in a third version of events.

The trial continues.

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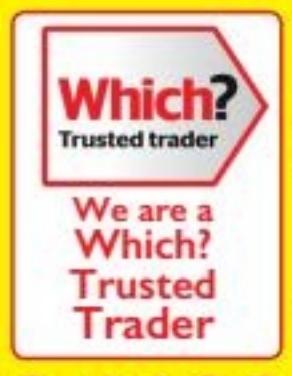
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## News

## InBrief

## Bike stolen with bike

A THIEF used a hire bicycle to ride into an office car park and steal someone else's bike.

CCTV cameras caught the suspected thief riding into the Isis Business Centre on Pony Road, just off Horspath Road in Cowley, between 8am and 12.30pm on February 6.



Police have released a picture of a man who could have 'vital' information about the incident.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180038817 if you have any information.

## Thieves hive bees

A MILLION bees have been stolen from a farmer's field near Bicester.

Brackley-based Beekeeper Honey found 40 of its hives had been stolen from a farmer's field off the A4421 between Fringford and Bicester on February 24.

Each hive is believed to hold 25,000 bees, adding up to around one million bees taken between February 17 and February 24.

Police are investigating and appealing for information. Call 101 if you have any details.

# Man jailed for drugs row kidnap

By George Welch

THREE men involved in the kidnap of a Didcot woman in a row over an apparent drugs debt have been jailed.

Ben Mitchell, 25, of Venners Water, Didcot, pleaded guilty to kidnapping at Oxford Crown Court on February 26, while two other men admitted other offences as a result of the investigation.

After losing a large amount of drugs and suspecting the woman's partner and friends of being responsible for stealing a stash, Mitchell turned up at the man's flat at 4am on August 19 only to find his partner there alone.

The 21-year-old was dragged out of

the flat and put in a car.

She was instructed to show him where she thought her partner and his friends were.

Spooked by seeing a police car, Mitchell got out of the vehicle and ran away but was later arrested.

As well as kidnapping, Mitchell also pleaded guilty to six counts of offering to supply class A drugs – including cocaine, MDMA, heroin and crack – and offering to supply class B drugs at a hearing on November 24 last year.

He was jailed for five years and four months at the hearing last week.

Mitchell's brother Jonathan, 30 from Liverpool, was jailed for 16 months after he pleaded guilty to witness intimidation. He called the victim

and threatened her life for providing evidence to the police.

During the investigation, police found evidence linking Mitchell and another man, Davy Herron, to the supply of class A and B drugs.

Herron, 21 of Abbott Road, Didcot, pleaded guilty to offering to supply a class A drug (MDMA) and class B drugs at Oxford Crown Court on February 20. He was jailed on February 26 for three years.

Detective Constable Richard Whitcombe said: "This was a nasty incident which has left the aggrieved suffering from post-traumatic stress. There was no regard for the welfare of the victim or the effect this may have on her."



**Ben Mitchell, left, has been jailed for five years and four months for the kidnapping of a woman and multiple drugs charges**  
**Davy Herron, right, admitted supplying drugs and was jailed for three years**

## Hydroelectric plant running at full power for 450 homes



Sandford Hydro is fully operational and ready to power 450 homes

OXFORD'S new £3.2million hydroelectric power plant is now 'fully operational', managers have confirmed.

The Sandford Hydro project stomached a wobbly start following its completion in September last year due to uncharacteristically low autumn river levels then turbulent winter torrents in December.

But the Low Carbon Hub team behind the project confirmed last week that the power plant is now operating at 'maximum power'.

But in a recent post on its web page, the group wrote: "We are very happy to report that Sandford Hydro is fully operational."

"After a series of thorough tests to ensure that the hydro is functioning as it should, including lots of trials to be prepared for any extreme conditions, we are running at maximum power."

"All of our systems are now linked up with the Environment Agency's remote monitoring system, which enables them to keep a close eye on the river levels at the hydro."

"They can also monitor the hydro should anything shut down unexpectedly."

They added that the 22-tonne steel screws will not turn 'on occasions', including during extreme weather conditions (only expected to happen less than five per cent of the time), power cuts and emergency repairs and maintenance.

The community-owned plant should produce 1,600 MWh of renewable electricity per year to power 450 homes.

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## Firefighters rescue horse trapped under the snow

A HORSE trapped in a ditch under a fallen tree for at least two hours had to be rescued by a specialist crew.

Fire crews were called to fields off Abingdon Road in Oxford at 2.30pm on Friday where an 11-year-old mare had been trapped for between two and three hours.

The animal was not seriously injured but was found suffering from the effects of cold and exhaustion as a result of the recent poor weather conditions.

Firefighters used manual and electric saws to reduce distress to the horse before removing sections of the tree so the vet could assess injuries and administer a sedative.

Once the horse was safe the crews were able to further dismantle the tree and attach lifting straps to pull the horse clear and help her to her feet. The horse was left in the care of its owner and the vet.

An Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said: "This was a large horse that had got itself stuck in an awkward position and in this case the owners recognised the risk and called upon the emergency services to assist."

"Persistent effort from the fire crews involved and the vet, who had travelled out in difficult weather conditions, resulted in a safe and successful rescue."

# Trust admits failings in care of Poundland killer

## Apology to victim's family after poor treatment

By Owen Hughes

OXFORD Health apologised after a coroner concluded a string of failures in the Trust's treatment of a schizophrenic drug addict could have contributed to the death of Justin Skrebowski.

Trevor Joyce fatally stabbed Mr Skrebowski with a knife grabbed from the shelf of Poundland in Abingdon in December 2015.

The inquest into the 61-year-old's death concluded on Monday at Oxford Coroner's Court.

Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter said Oxford Health had not passed on important information to police, which could have better protected the public from Joyce.

Less than a week before Mr Skrebowski's murder, Joyce had told specialist doctor Toby O'Hanlon that he wanted to stab customers in Poundland.

A lack of communication between the authorities handling Joyce's treatment meant Dr O'Hanlon failed to share the information with police.

Four days after speaking to the psychiatrist, Joyce acted



Justin Skrebowski was killed in December 2015 after Trevor Joyce told a psychiatrist he wanted to stab people

on his thoughts, resulting in Mr Skrebowski's death.

Mr Salter said the Trust was not at fault for Joyce not being remanded in custody, which could have prevented the stabbing.

A spokesperson for Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust said: "We would like to offer our most sincere condolences to Mr Skrebowski's family at a very difficult time for them.

"We always strive to do everything

we can to ensure we provide the highest possible standards of care at Oxford Health, but there were actions that could have been better performed in this case, and for those we are sorry."

The Trust added it has already undertaken an internal review of its services and implemented a number of changes.

An independently commissioned report by NHS England is also being carried out on Oxford Health, which it hopes "will provide further assurances to both Mr Skrebowski's family and the wider community we serve".

Joyce was voluntarily admitted to Littlemore Mental Health Centre after a spate of four arrests in one week just two months before the attack.

Joyce committed the random assault on the art dealer from Sunnymead, Oxford, six weeks after his release on October 28, 2015.

In 2016, Joyce was sentenced to life in prison for the killing of Mr Skrebowski with a minimum of nine years for manslaughter with diminished responsibility.

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## News

# Pulling together to beat cancer

By George Welch

STAFF and customers at a leisure centre are pulling together to see how many miles they can clock up on an indoor rowing machine in a day – and they need your help to beat their Cambridge rivals.

The row-athon will involve teams at Better Leisure's Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney going head-to-head with their counterparts in Cambridge in a race against the clock. The team which rows the furthest will be crowned the winners.

Anyone over the age of 11 can take part and get into the competitive spirit ahead of the Boat Race on March 24.

The event comes as Better Leisure is this month challenging would-be rowers to go the distance and cover 26.2 miles on an indoor rowing

machine, in stages or in one go, as part of Cancer Research's Great Row challenge.

Pam Radley, who works at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre, knows all too well the devastation that cancer can cause after losing her dad to the disease two years ago.

Pam said: "Every day was different but throughout it all he remained strong and so resilient, right to the end.

"You go through such a rollercoaster of emotion when a loved one is diagnosed with cancer. This was my first real experience of it affecting someone very close to me and it definitely changes everything.

"It's only right we get involved and do our bit to not only get behind Oxford in the boat races but also to encourage people to get involved and get rowing themselves."



From left, Better Leisure's Rod Noble, Harriet Claridge, Pam Radley and Josh Luland warm up for the row-athon against rivals in Cambridge

The row-athon will take place between 9am and 1pm on Saturday in the reception area of Windrush Leisure Centre on Witan Way.

To download a training plan and fundraising pack for the Great Row, visit [cancerresearchuk.org/thegreatrow](http://cancerresearchuk.org/thegreatrow)

## Drug dealer caught after hiding car keys in flowerpot

AN Oxford drug dealer has been jailed after cocaine and cannabis worth more than £30,000 was found stashed in two vehicles.

Police officers visiting Jay Isthiaq Ahmad's home in Rest Harrow on a separate issue last March were suspicious when they spotted the 23-year-old hide car keys in a flowerpot.

The keys were found during a subsequent search of the home.

Two nearby vehicles were then

searched and officers found the class A and B drugs which had a street value of more than £30,000.

Ahmad, pictured, was convicted and sentenced to six years and six months' in prison at Oxford Crown Court on Tuesday last week.

He pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine and possession with intent to supply cannabis. He was charged with the drug offences on January 2.

Investigating officer, PC Stephanie Barras-Thompson of the Oxford Investigation Hub, said: "Ahmad's conviction and sentencing shows how seriously Thames Valley Police takes drugs offences, and means that a drug dealer has been removed from the streets of Oxford.

"I hope that this serves as a warning to other offenders and demonstrates the serious consequences of this type of crime."



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**Day 1:** Join our coach this morning on a leisurely journey into South Wales as we head for Pembrokeshire and board the 2:30pm Ferry to Rosslare in Southern Ireland. Arrive in good time for dinner and a relaxing first evening in Ireland.

**Day 2:** A trip to the city of Kilkenny. On the way we travel through the beautiful scenery of the Nire Valley region.

**Day 3:** A trip to Ireland's third city of Cork which is a fascinating city and important sea port. On the way to Cork we also stop a while in Cobh (pronounced 'Cove') a very nice, quiet coastal town with a beautiful Cathedral. Cobh is famous as the last port of call of the Titanic on its maiden voyage in 1912.

**Day 4:** Today is left free so you have a chance to explore Dungarvan at your own pace.

**Day 5:** We leave after an early breakfast and catch the 9am ferry from Rosslare back to Pembrokeshire then continue home to your original joining point.

**Lawlers Hotel, Dungarvan** ★★★

Lawlers Hotel is situated in the heart of the historic town of Dungarvan and near local shops and sights. 94 bedrooms with full facilities, well-presented reception, restaurant and bar/lounge.

Coach departs: **Monday 14th May £279**

Price includes: 4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach, ferry travel and trips out. Single Room Supp. £75



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Here's the full details...

**Day 1:** We arrive at Lakeside late afternoon. Check in, settle-in and look forward to your first evening of a good dinner and great entertainment later.

**Day 2:** A trip to the historic city of Winchester. It's amazing Cathedral one of the oldest in the country (begun in 1079) - a must-see while you're here. Also see the old city centre, with its narrow pedestrian streets and overhanging medieval buildings. Of special interest are the Pentece, a group of old shops arcaded at the front, and the Butter Cross, dating back to the 15th century and built with a tax levied on people caught eating butter during Lent.

**Day 3:** A trip to the pretty riverside town of Arundel - dominated by its beautiful Castle.

**Day 4:** Enjoy a last, hearty 'Warner's' breakfast to see us on our journey home today.



4 Days  
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Accommodation is Chalet-style with comfy beds, TV, radio, hairdryer, iron, tea/coffee tray, ensuite bathroom with toiletries and towels.

Coach departs: **Friday 27th April £209**

Price includes: 3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out. Single room supplement £20



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**Day 1:** On our way to Scotland we stop overnight in the vibrant, friendly city of Liverpool.

**Day 2:** We head to Gourock in Scotland and take the ferry over to Dunoon. We stay for 4 nights at the Esplanade Hotel.

**Day 3:** A scenic meandering drive to Loch Lomond. After a while in Loch Lomond we visit the attractive seaside town of Helensburgh.

**Day 4:** We'll enjoy another picture-postcard drive through the Argyll Forest and along the shores of Loch Fyne and spend time in Inveraray.

**Day 5:** Today is left free so you can explore Dunoon at your own pace.

**Day 6:** We leave Scotland and break our journey home with an overnight stay in Lancashire at the Legacy Hotel.

**Day 7:** We complete the final leg of our journey home.

**Esplanade Hotel, Dunoon** ★★★

The Esplanade Hotel is located on West Bay Promenade and close to all local amenities. This lovely 3 star is one of Dunoon's foremost hotels, family owned and run by a very friendly, caring and professional team. Inside, the hotel is well-presented throughout from the public areas to the guest rooms with full facilities (ensuite, TV, phone, hairdryer, tea/coffee) and lift to all floors.

Coach departs: **Sunday 29th April £366**

Price includes: 6 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and ferry travel and trips out as shown. S.S. £75

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Here's the full details...

**Day 1:** We arrive at the Headland hotel this afternoon where we stay for 3 nights including 5-course dinners, sumptuous buffet breakfasts and entertainment each evening.

**Day 2:** Today we visit the charming small Devon towns of Sidmouth and Dawlish.

**Day 3:** This morning we see Dartmouth - one of Devon's most picturesque harbour towns.

This afternoon we are back in Torquay to enjoy some time in resort.

**Day 4:** We leave for home after a last, hearty 'Headland' breakfast to see us on our way.

Coach departs: **Friday 13th April**

**& Friday 27th April £219**

Price includes: 3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out. Single room supplement £21



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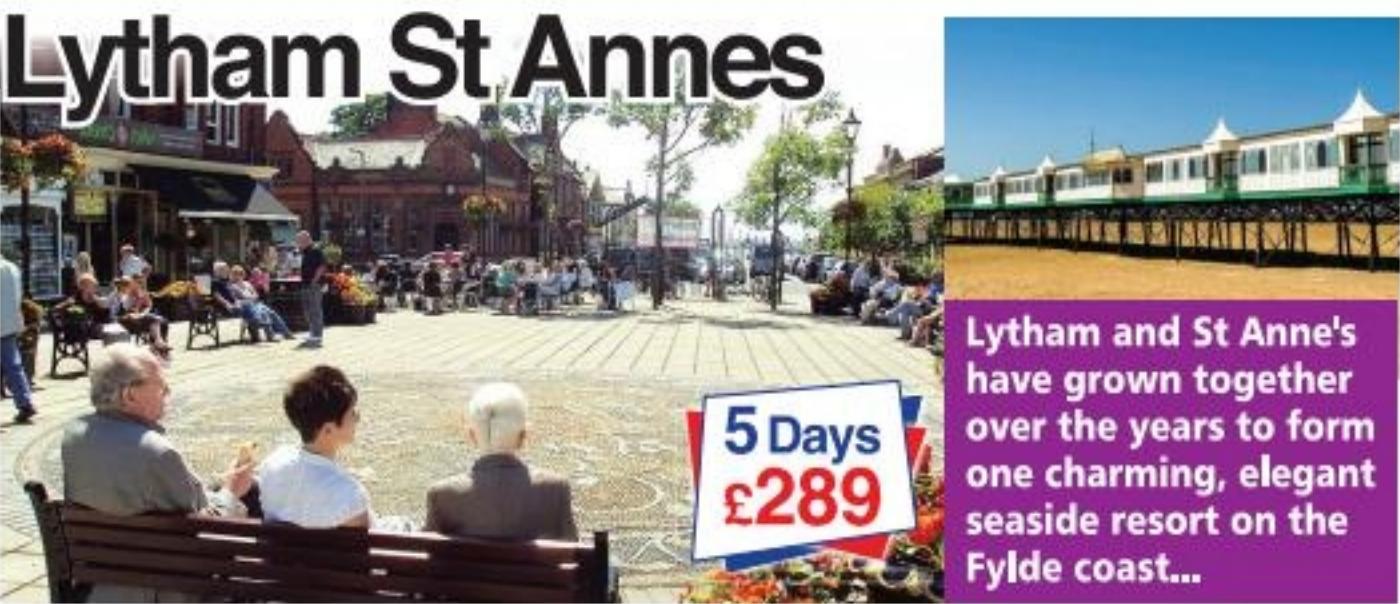
37 en-suite bedrooms with tea & coffee making facilities, TV, hairdryer and trouser press. Lift serves some not all bedrooms. This hotel is not suitable for persons with mobility problems.

Coach departs: **Monday 4th June £329**

Price includes: 4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach travel and trips out. Single room supplement £25



## Lytham St Annes



5 Days  
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Lytham and St Anne's have grown together over the years to form one charming, elegant seaside resort on the Fylde coast...

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**Day 2:** A trip to an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', a feast for the eyes and senses when we enjoy a meandering drive through the Yorkshire Dales National Park with stops at Kirby Lonsdale and Hawes.

**Day 3:** Today we visit Southport - another delightful, Victorian, popular seaside resort on the west coast.

**Day 4:** Today is left free so you can explore Lytham St Annes at your own pace.

**Day 5:** Sadly, it's time to leave for home after a last hearty breakfast to see us on our way.

**Lindum Hotel, Lytham St Annes** See Website for full details.

Coach departs: **Monday 11th June £289**

Price includes: 4 Nights, Coach, hotel, breakfast, dinner and trips out as shown. S. S. £25



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## News

## InBrief

## Knives surrendered

DOZENS of knives were handed in during an amnesty in Abingdon.

Thames Valley Police revealed it collected 45 knives from its drop-off bin at the town's police station during last month's week-long campaign.

The initiative was part of Operation Sceptre, a national operation to reduce knife crime.

Figures show knife crime increased by 32 per cent between April 1, 2016 and March 31 last year.

Possession offences rose by 27 per cent within the same period.

## Vintage flair at fair

SHOPPERS looking to welcome in spring the traditional way will love Lou Lou's Oxford Vintage Fair at the Town Hall on Saturday.

The UK's biggest travelling vintage fair will feature live music, a retro hair and beauty salon and an impressive selection of eclectic vintage wares.

The fair will run from midday to 5pm. Admission is £2.50 for adults and free for children under the age of 12.

## Firefighters needed

INTERESTED in becoming a firefighter? Try the tests you would need to complete at a 'have a go day' at Goring Fire Station on Saturday.

Visit [tinyurl.com/y7eccl7e](http://tinyurl.com/y7eccl7e) for more information and contact fire.recruitment@oxfordshire.gov.uk to book your place.

## Faulty TV sets off fire alarm

A FAULTY television set left on while no one was home caused a Carterton home to become smoke logged.

The occupier of the Bovingdon Road home returned home after being out for a couple of hours and heard the smoke alarms ringing, the fire service said.

She opened the front door at around 9.50pm on Wednesday last week and was met by thick black smoke.

Firefighters from Bampton, Burford and Rewley Road, Oxford, used a thermal imaging camera to locate the small fire and extinguished it using a hose reel jet.

The smoke was then driven out using high-powered fans.

Incident commander, watch manager Ed Maloney, from Bampton Fire Station, said: "While the fire was fairly small and only involved direct



burning to the television and the items immediately surrounding it, it did produce a lot of smoke which spread throughout the house.

Smoke damage to the house caused by the TV



"Fortunately the property had working smoke alarms which raised the alarm to the occupier so she was cautious as she opened the front door upon her return."

A specialist fire investigator confirmed the fire was started by a faulty television.

## More given place at chosen school

By George Welch

MORE children have been offered their first-choice secondary school, despite a rise in pupil numbers.

Almost nine out of 10 Oxfordshire children due to start secondary school in September have been offered a place at their top-choice school.

In total, 88.8 per cent of pupils have received a first-preference offer –

slightly higher than last year's figure (88.6 per cent) – despite 229 more youngsters transferring compared to last year.

A further six per cent have been offered their second choice and 1.55 per cent offered their third preference.

This leaves 3.2 per cent of applicants being offered a place at a school not among their stated preferences.

Hilary Hibbert-Biles, responsible

for education at Oxfordshire County Council, said she is pleased "we have been able to give the vast majority of families the news they were hoping to receive".

Overall, 6,848 Oxfordshire children are transferring to secondary schools this year – 229 more than in 2017. Of these, 6,083 have been offered their first preference school – 216 more than last year.

The county's secondary school age population is expected to continue to increase over the next few years, as primary school growth over the past decade translates into greater demand for secondary school places.

Cllr Hibbert-Biles said the council is looking at expanding schools where needed.

Any late applications can be filled out at [tinyurl.com/ycp93yhk](http://tinyurl.com/ycp93yhk)

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# Drug driver killed OAP when sleeping at wheel

By George Welch

A DRUG driver who killed a pensioner in a head-on collision while high on drugs has been jailed for six years.

Stephen Horwood, of Greenhill, Blackbird Leys, Oxford killed Michael Smith, 71, when he fell asleep at the wheel of his white Ford Transit on the A415 near Ducklington, west Oxfordshire.

Mr Smith's wife, Susan, a passenger in their red Peugeot 107, was seriously injured when Horwood's van ploughed into them on September 7 last year.

Horwood, 37, failed a drugs test and checks found he had taken cocaine prior to the crash.

The father-of-three, who admitted causing death by dangerous driving and serious injury by dangerous driving, had more than three times the legal limit for cocaine, which is 10 microgrammes per litre of blood.

It has also been revealed that Horwood, a self-employed carpet fitter, was caught driving with



Stephen Horwood's van ploughed into the car driven by Michael Smith, killing him and injuring his wife, Susan

Benzoyllecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine, in his system by police in November. He was jailed for 23 weeks on January 4 for these offences.

Investigating officer, Sergeant

>> Emily's cake sale helps boost funds for Helen & Douglas House  
Page 16

Beth Walton of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "Sadly, this is yet another avoidable death on our roads where a driver has failed to understand the dangers of drugs driving.

"While the sentence given can never be comparable to the pain and suffering of the victims' family, it should stand as a deterrent to others who are driving dangerously while influenced by drugs and alcohol, placing themselves and innocent members of the public at risk of harm.

"Horwood will have to live the rest of his life knowing that his actions caused this tragic incident and took a man away from his family."

Horwood was jailed for a total of six years, made up of six years for causing death by dangerous driving and four years of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, to run concurrently.

He was also disqualified from driving for a total of six years and must take an extended re-test.



## Patient urges others to help with research

AN Oxfordshire man with type 2 diabetes has urged the public to become official ambassadors for NHS research after taking part in clinical trials at Oxford's Churchill Hospital.

Gordon Moultrie, 65, pictured, of Chipping Norton, learned of the Patient Research Ambassador Initiative, where the public promote NHS research, through taking part in diabetes research at the east Oxford hospital.

The Scotsman, married with two grown up children, said he fully supports patient and public involvement in the healthcare sector.

"No research, no progress - it's as simple as that," the semi-retired company director said.

"Research is the key to improving healthcare in the UK and worldwide."

"We need to invest money and time into research to develop new medicines and treatments to help



more people and reduce the costs."

The PRAI - which Mr Moultrie joined in 2015 - is run by the National Institute for Health Research and aims to educate and involve the public about the importance of research trials.

Mr Moultrie currently enjoys good health while managing his type 2 diabetes 'relatively well'.

People who are interested in becoming PRAs should contact [comms.crnthamesvalley@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:comms.crnthamesvalley@nihr.ac.uk) or 01865 227252.

## Share your business profile with others

A GUIDE showcasing the city's economic strengths, opportunities and support services has been launched.

The Oxford Business Guide is accompanied by It's Local Oxford, an interactive listing of businesses and organisations that provide services to

business and consumers. Businesses are encouraged to sign up and add their free company profile.

Visit [tinyurl.com/y86xb34n](http://tinyurl.com/y86xb34n) for It's Local Oxford and [tinyurl.com/y9tn93jr](http://tinyurl.com/y9tn93jr) for the Oxford Business Guide.

Prices are correct time at time of going to press.

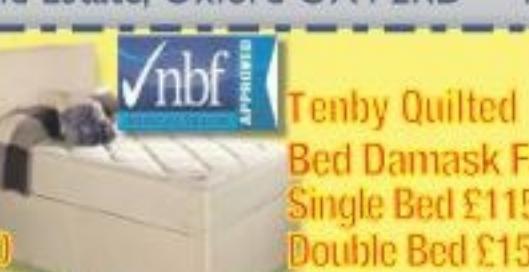
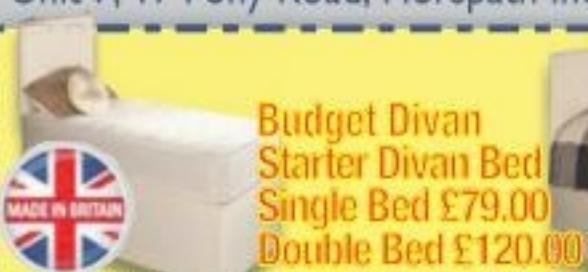
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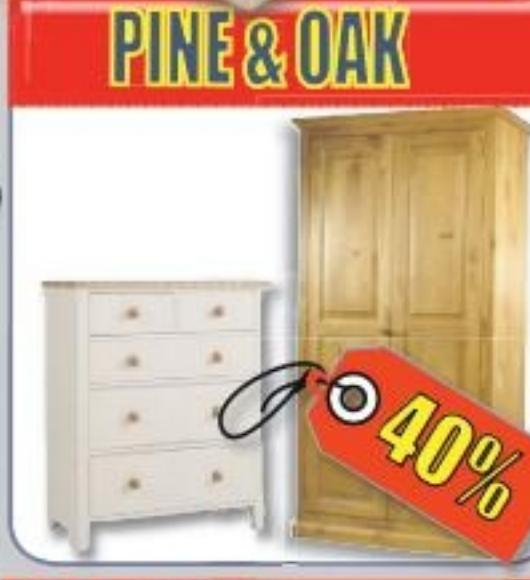
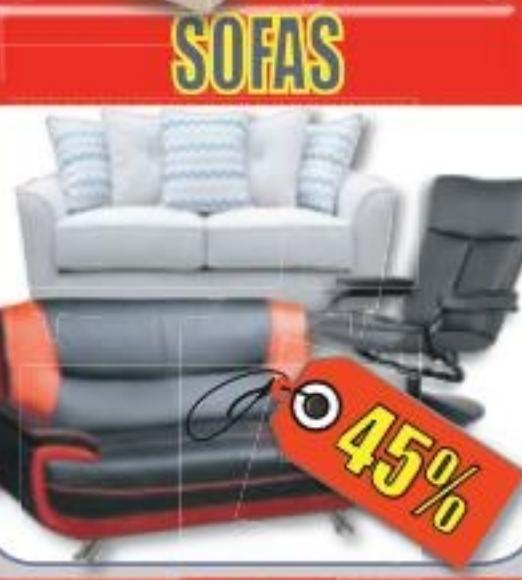
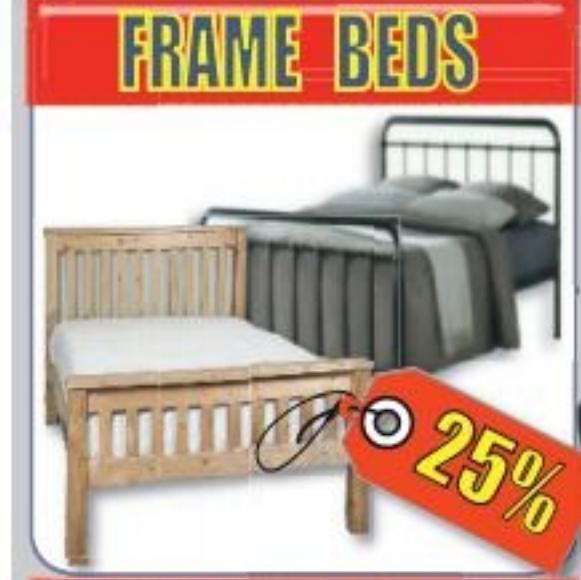
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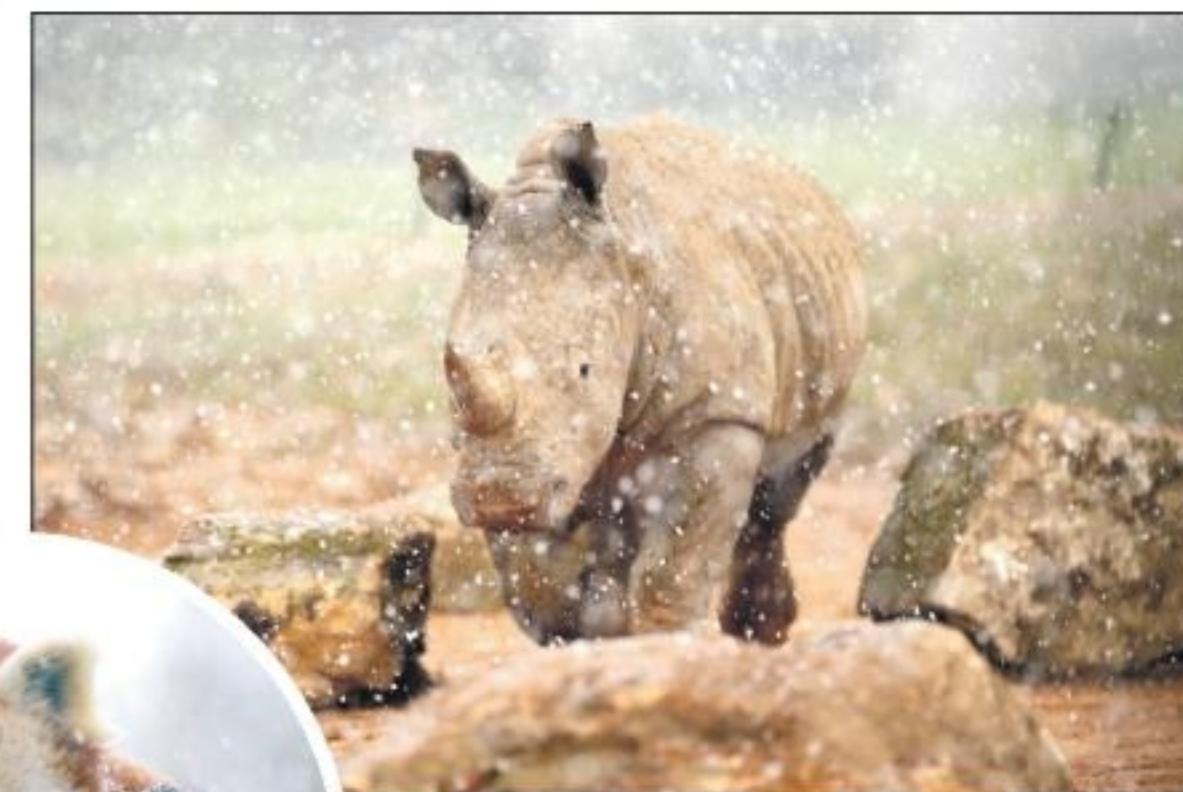
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The rhino seems rather unsure of the snow in this picture by Jeff Youd and inset, Scarlet the Red Panda is huddled up warm in a tree



A peacock finds its feet in the first of the snow and left, Kali, one of Asiatic lion triplets born in 2016 surveys the scene

# Beast of a different kind moves into wildlife park

Ponds frozen as polar blast blows in from east

By George Welch

ANIMALS at Cotswold Wildlife Park had a great time frolicking in the snow last week as these pictures show – but the popular attraction was forced to close its doors to the public.

The park was shut last Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday due to the heavy snowfall brought on by the Beast From The East – a freezing polar blast from Siberia.

But that failed to stop the animals having fun in the white stuff.

Red pandas, wolverines and pallas cats were just some of the species who revelled in last week's arctic conditions.

Penguin chick Lucky was left fascinated with the snowflakes, trying to catch them with her beak.

Curator Jamie Craig said:

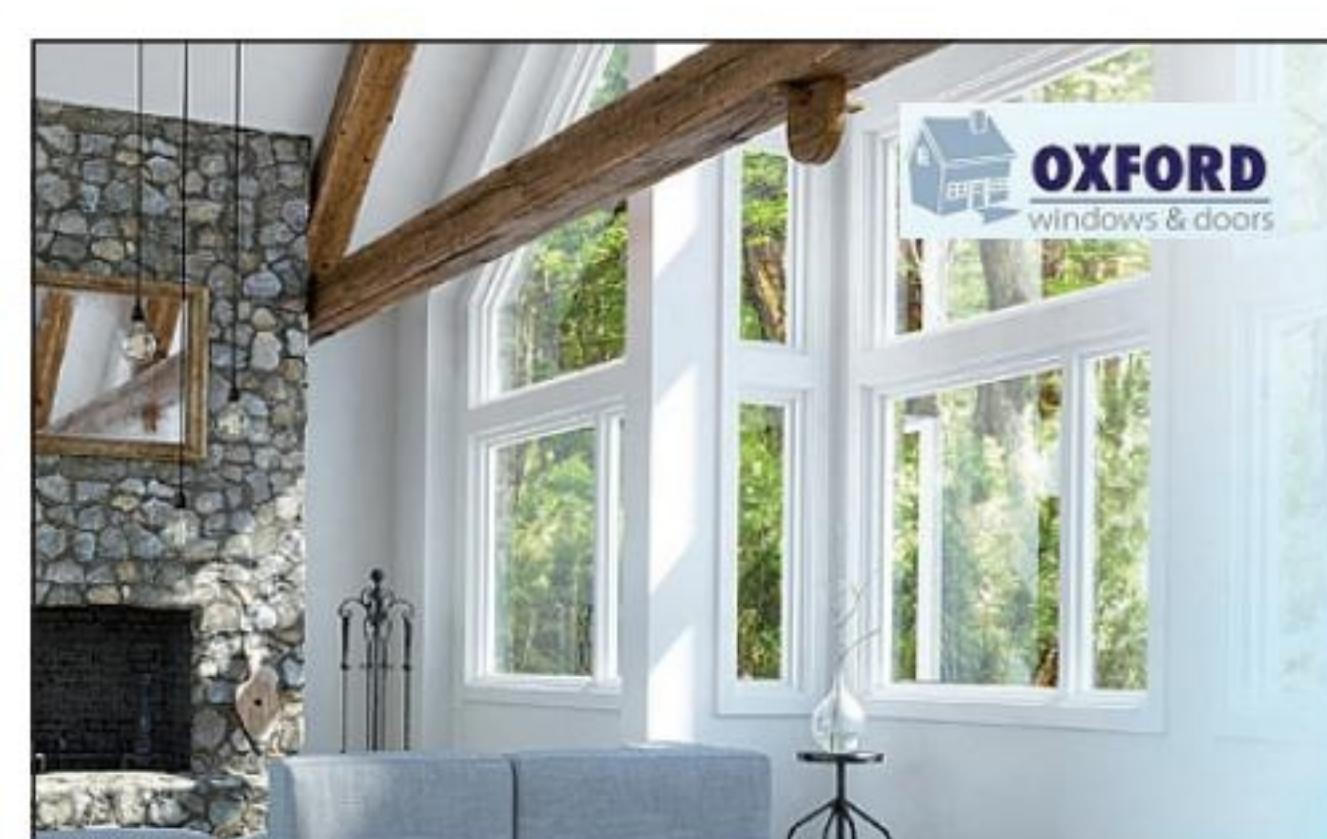


"All the animals have heated houses where needed and are currently unaware of the outside temperatures, unlike their keepers who are busy removing snow from the roof of the aviaries and clearing pathways.

"It's certainly not the weather for our tropical species but for a few, most notably the reindeer, wolverines and penguins and pallas cats, it is a favourite time of year and they are revelling in the arctic conditions."



Penguin chick Lucky was fascinated by the white stuff and the frozen waterfall and inset, a pelican takes tentative steps on the ice



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## News

## Expressway 'success story'

BUSINESS chiefs and public-sector leaders will meet at a major conference later this year to discuss and debate the £3.5billion Oxford-Cambridge expressway route.

Some of the region's biggest names in business, politics and local government will discuss industrial strategy, skills, housing, infrastructure and growing the economy.

Heather Smith, one of the speakers at the event as chair of England's Economic Heartland's Strategic Transport Forum, said the conference will "build on the real momentum which is forming behind the region".

She said: "With the right investment in infrastructure, we can become internationally renowned for

science, technology and innovation, competing for UK Plc on the global stage."

The managing director of Built Environment Networking, which is organising the conference, said it is "essential" businesses work together to make the project 'a success story'.

Keith Griffiths added: "The long-awaited transport links between Oxford and Cambridge will not only improve connectivity and communication between the cities and those in-between, but it will provide the infrastructure to drive economic development and growth."

The discussion will take place at Milton Keynes Dons Football Club on June 21 from 7.45am to 4.45pm. For tickets and more information, visit [tinyurl.com/ybfa42wd](http://tinyurl.com/ybfa42wd)

## Fundraising for city museum

IT is not too late to help raise cash towards the Museum of Oxford redevelopment.

The £2.8m project will transform the Old Museum, which was closed in 2011, into a new, purpose-built space with the capacity to increase the number of exhibits from 286 to 750.

Proceeds from three events will go towards the renovation.

A talk on Oxford's town and gown riots and a vintage map took place last week, but the entertainment for museum buffs is not over yet.

Oxford-based historian and author

Bryan Brown will give a talk on John Henry Brookes, the man who inspired a university.

Mr Brown's talk will cover Mr Brookes' early life and influences, his career as a craftsman and the evolution of the Headington campus to Oxford Brookes University.

The event will take place at the St Aldate's museum from 6pm to 7pm on Thursday, March 22.

Doors will open at 5.45pm. Tickets cost £4 with a booking fee.

Visit [oxfordhiddenhistories.org](http://oxfordhiddenhistories.org) to donate.

# Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House Ice one Emily! Cake sale to remember her friend

By George Welch

AN 11-year-old with a sweet tooth for fundraising baked and decorated 300 cakes as she continues to raise sacksful of cash in memory of her 'beautiful' friend.

It took Emily Martin, from Chesterton, near Bicester, nearly two days to bake and decorate the cakes for a sale at her dad's work at Microsoft in Reading last month.

She raised £3,000 for the east Oxford hospice on the day as people bought cakes, donated to her JustGiving page and Microsoft matched the funding.

Emily was inspired to make a difference when her 'beautiful' friend Izzy died in May 2016 having battled kidney cancer.

"In the last few weeks of her life she moved to Helen & Douglas House where she had the best time and made so many memories," Emily says on a fundraising page.

"I want to raise money to help other children with life limiting conditions and their families."

Emily also set up a JustGiving page for people who were not able to get to the sale.

Of her fundraising, she said: "I wanted to help Helen & Douglas House because my friend [Izzy] was poorly with cancer and then moved to Helen & Douglas House.

"I wanted to help make the children there feel



Emily Martin's delicious cakes helped her raise £3,000 for Helen & Douglas House where her friend Izzy spent her last days

more comfortable and to give them some happy times. It took a day to bake all the cakes and half a day to ice them all but it was absolutely worth it.

"Thank you for all the donations."

Her mum, Jo, added: "We are so proud of what Emily is doing in memory of Izzy and to help others in their time of need.

"Her target is to fundraise £5,000

this year for Helen & Douglas which I'm sure she will easily achieve."

Community fundraising manager at Helen & Douglas House said: "We rely on donations like this to care for local terminally ill children and cannot do this without the help of amazing people like Emily."

Visit [tinyurl.com/y8tnyg55](http://tinyurl.com/y8tnyg55) to donate.



Sheila Wilkinson, centre, one of the founder members of the Guild, with fellow tour guides

## On the trail of a good tourist guide

OXFORD tour guides come from a variety of career backgrounds but they all have one thing in common – a love of the city, the university and its heritage.

It was a double celebration for the know-it-all ambassadors at Oxford Guild of Tour Guides last week as they celebrated International Day of the Tourist Guide and welcomed the latest

batch of qualified guides.

Oxford has more than seven million visitors a year and large groups of tourists have become a contentious issue in the busy city.

The qualified green badge guides conduct walking tours for the Visitor Information Centre on Broad Street.

They can be found on the city centre streets leading tour parties

in all weathers, seven days a week throughout the year.

And the guides are, of course, trained to keep disruption to a minimum and ensure pavements are never blocked.

A spokesperson said more guides would be trained in response to an expected increase in visitor numbers over the next five years.



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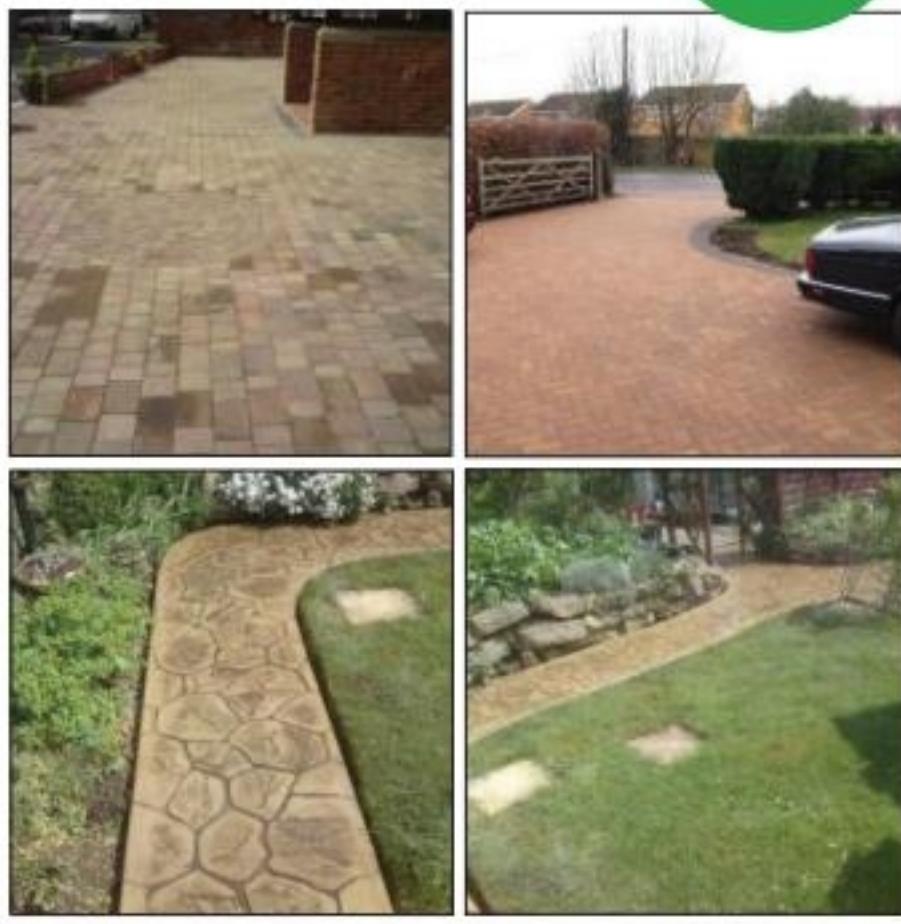
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The first steps onto the property ladder can be a daunting challenge. With house prices continuing to increase, that first property can appear further away than ever for the UK's would-be first-time buyers<sup>1</sup>. This has seen an increasing turn towards the "Bank of Mum and Dad", for financial support. Recent research indicates that the average amount lent to children by their parents for support in the property market is over £18,000, although a significant number – 41pc – cannot offer this financial support<sup>2</sup>.

For over-55 UK homeowners there is a way to use the value of your property to give the "Bank of Mum and Dad" a timely financial boost. The home that you have been responsibly investing in for years could turn out to be your secret later life cash reserve. A lifetime mortgage, the most popular way of releasing equity, could allow you to access your property wealth in a way that is convenient, flexible, and secure. With the equity released you could then give your nearest and dearest the leg-up onto the property ladder they may need.

There are a range of lifetime mortgage options available to suit your circumstances. A drawdown lifetime mortgage would give you an immediate tax-free cash lump sum, which could be gifted to your children as a contribution towards a house deposit. The remainder of the equity you have released is then kept in an interest free reserve, ready for when you need it. This option can help mitigate the build-up of interest.

By choosing a lifetime mortgage provided by an Equity Release Council approved lender, you can take comfort in several important guarantees. You and your partner retain full ownership of your property for the duration of your lives, or until you enter full-time care. A no negative equity guarantee also means that you will never owe more than the value of your home at the end of the plan.

The money you have access to with a lifetime mortgage is yours to spend entirely as you wish. Why not find out today if your house could help boost the "Bank of Mum and Dad", and give your children an invaluable step-up onto the property market?

<sup>1</sup> The Guardian, 'House prices rise 5% a year in more bad news for would-be buyers', 17/10/17 | <sup>2</sup> Financial Reporter, 'Bank of Mum and Dad lending £18,000 on average', 20/10/17

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Our adviser, Andy Pike, based in Oxford, worked tirelessly on our behalf in arriving at a satisfactory outcome despite a valuation problem that my wife and I never anticipated. His prompt response to all our queries and tenacity in seeking answers and solutions from the lender cannot be praised highly enough. It was in all respects a highly-personal service. - John Wright, 14 February 2018.

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## News

# Posing with pets to help give back to the animals

By George Welch

TV stars Miranda Richardson and Joanna Scanlan met homeless cats, dogs, rabbits and horses during an exclusive behind the scenes visit to Blue Cross for a special set of portraits.

The west Oxfordshire charity teamed up with photographer Rankin to shoot the portraits aimed at celebrating how important pets are in people's lives and to encourage people to rehome.

EastEnders actress Michelle Collins and X Factor singer Diana Vickers also took part in the photoshoot at Blue Cross's rehoming centre in the picturesque Cotswolds village of Burford.

The stars met a variety of animals waiting for new homes at the centre including dogs, cats and kittens, chinchillas, rats, mice and horses.

Among the animals the celebs met were two-year-old Chihuahua cross Stitch who was found wandering the streets as a skinny and nervous stray.

Horses Splodge and Emerald, who came into the rehoming centre separately after they were found fly-grazing, also enjoyed

the special attention.

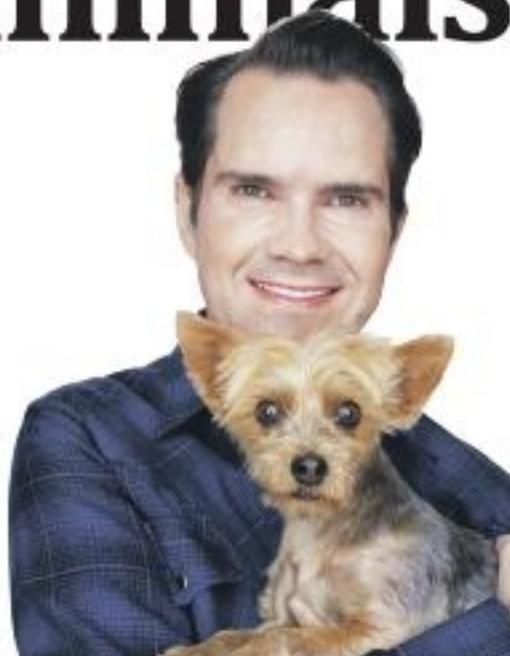
Speaking of her own special bond with her pets, Oscar-nominated actor Richardson, who most recently appeared in ITV's British drama series *Girlfriends*, said: "My pets are my constant companions. They are wonderful souls who fill rooms.

"They are people to love and give you a chance to nurture. I think they have given me skills and I hope I've given them some."

Comedian Jimmy Carr, who adopted Yorkshire Terrier Marnie from Blue Cross's rehoming centre in Lewknor in 2016, actors Anthony and Emily Head, Issac Hempstead-Wright and James Bowen and Bob the Street Cat were also photographed for the project at Rankin's studios in London.

Rankin even got in front of the camera for a selfie with Splodge and later shared the shot on Instagram.

He said: "Pets change our lives. I know mine certainly have and that is why I wanted to join forces with Blue Cross and their famous friends and through this series of unique portraits, inspire people to give back to pets in need for the amazing, enriching and wonderful roles pets play in our lives."



Miranda Richardson, Joanna Scanlon, Emily and Anthony Head and Jimmy Carr posed to show how important pets are in people's lives



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## Out&About Competition

# WIN tickets to an evening of Johnny Cash at the Anvil

Clive John is an accomplished singer, songwriter based in Malvern, Worcestershire. However, Clive is better known to thousands across Europe as the voice of Johnny Cash as he plays the lead role in the critically acclaimed theatre production – 'The Johnny Cash Roadshow.' this is the only show to be endorsed by the Cash family.

You have the chance to experience this first hand when the show comes to the Anvil on Wednesday March 28.

The spirit of the Man in Black is alive and 'kicking like a mule' with an outstanding celebration of the iconic legend by the Carter/Cash endorsed Johnny Cash Roadshow.

This is gold standard, fire-cracking entertainment from the first note, delivering an inspired set of cherished numbers with impeccable rhythmic pace. A dynamic performance from an unparalleled group of highly talented musicians and a guaranteed treat for country music lovers and die hard Cash fans alike.

The stage lights up with a colourful explosion of energy, against a striking backdrop of classic screen imagery of

Closing date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

the 'real deal'. Clive John, captures the essence of Cash with exceptional style and confidence. His deep, distinctive vocals are spot on, evoking pure country magic with Walk the Line, Folsom Prison Blues and A Thing Called Love.

Charismatic duets are superb. Renditions of Don't You Think It's Come Our Time and Jackson, encapsulate the tender charm and uplifting humour shared by the late enigmatic pair. The music doesn't miss a beat as the set glides seamlessly along, evoking a timeless quality of a golden era with fresh contemporary flair.

Martin Bentley (bass) is in a league of his own and Nick Davis (guitars) and Darren Bazzoni (drums) first class.

Backing vocals by Louise Masters and Amanda Stone add sparkle and glamour as the Carter sisters, complimenting the line up with equally impressive versatility.

### Win tickets!

We have two pairs of tickets for this amazing night of music and to be in with a chance of winning one all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

**Q: In what year was Johnny Cash born?**

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to [www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk)

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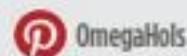
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**I**t's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes

mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for

the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing - just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call 01865 582 171 and speak to their team.

## Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call 01865 582 171 for more information



## Gardeners' Questions

**Q** Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

**A** The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

**Q** No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

**A** Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†



## THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

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the revolutionary low-maintenance system

**01865 582 171**

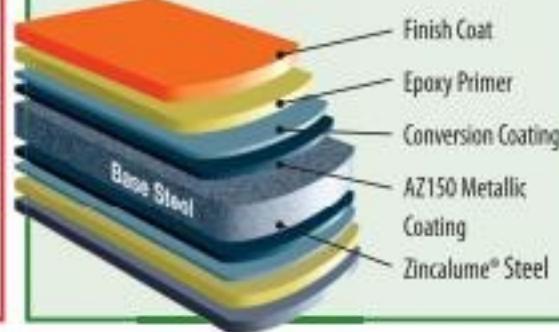
[colourfence.co.uk](http://colourfence.co.uk)

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

### In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free.
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years.
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
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Your guide for your leisure time  
in & around Oxfordshire

# Out & About

*Enjoy a  
girls night  
out with  
Kathy*

Lette all-round  
bonne vivant take  
you on a journey



*Terence Rattigan's  
The Winslow Boy  
comes to  
The Playhouse*



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Out &amp; About

# A window on life of the Winslows

## Family drama based on real-life event

By Samantha McGregor

A MAJOR new revival of Terence Rattigan's classic family drama comes to Oxford Playhouse this month.

Based on a real-life event, *The Winslow Boy* is a courageous and delicately humorous window into the class and political hypocrisy of the time.

This production stars Tessa Peake-Jones of *Only Fools and Horses* and *Grantchester*, alongside Aden Gillett, who was in *House of Elliott* and *Holby City*, and takes to the Playhouse stage from Monday, March 12, to Saturday, March 17.

Having been expelled from the Royal Navy College for stealing a five-shilling postal order, young cadet Ronnie Winslow's family are pulled apart by the repercussions of this charge.

Set against the values of 1910 Edwardian London, the Winslow family fight to clear his name or face social ostracism as the case becomes a national scandal.

Peake-Jones stars as Grace Winslow, the mother of Ronnie, the accused cadet.

Now well-known as Mrs Maguire in *ITV1's Grantchester*, Peake-Jones has had a long, varied career



including Raquel in *Only Fools and Horses*.

Arthur Winslow is played by Aden Gillett, Ronnie's father. His film roles include *The Borrowers*, with forthcoming films *The Foreigner* starring Jackie Chan and Pierce Brosnan, and *A Caribbean Dream* where he plays Theseus in a modern reimagining of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The *Winslow Boy*, which became one of Rattigan's best known and most loved works, originally appeared on stage in 1946.

This new production is directed by Olivier Award-nominated Rachel Kavanaugh, who also directed *A Christmas Carol* for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Tickets for *The Winslow Boy* at Oxford Playhouse start at £10 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or go to [oxfordplayhouse.com](http://oxfordplayhouse.com)



## On stage

### Flower power rules

O'Neils Bar in Oxford will host covers band HippyHaze tomorrow evening from 10pm.

The three-piece band cover songs exclusively from 1966 to 1969 which includes artists like Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Santana, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Deep Purple and more.

There is no entry fee.

### Metal mayhem

Rock band Black Shot Rose are gearing up to perform at The Cellar in Oxford this Saturday.

Audiences can expect an evening of heavy rock and metal music from an experienced band who have been playing together for more than seven years.

The band will kick off at 7.30pm.

### Radio Ga Ga

For an evening of punk and hits from the 70s and 80s head over to The Brewery Tap in Abingdon on Saturday.

Radio Generation will be performing covers from David Bowie, Tom Petty, Lou Reed, Sex Pistols and The Cure to name a few.

The gig will begin at 9pm and has no entry fee.

>> Is your band playing a gig? Am dram group taking to the stage? Tell us – email [josh@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:josh@taylornewspapers.co.uk)

## For a Mother's Day treat as special as she is

This Mother's Day, spoil your mum with something extra special at De Vere Oxford Thames.

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# DE VERE

OXFORD THAMES

Terms and conditions apply. No afternoon teas available.

This offer can not be used in conjunction with any other offers. No Gourmet society discounts. Children under four are free when there are paying adult meals. No children's menu available.



# Girls just wanna have fun

By Josh Cox

"WOMEN are each other's human wonder bras – uplifting, supportive and making each other look bigger and better," says Kathy Lette.

Australian born author, screen-writer, journalist, party girl and all-round bonne vivant Kathy hits the road this spring with her debut live show Girls Night Out.

Best known for her many novels including *How To Kill Your Husband* (and Other Handy Household Hints), *Foetal Attraction*, and *Nip 'n' Tuck*, Kathy has decided it's time to take centre stage to share intimate details of her varied and multi-coloured personal, social and professional life.

Girls Night Out takes the audience on a journey from puberty to meno-pause and beyond and everything in between, with tales of love, lust, men, marriage, pregnancy, childbirth, sexist bosses, teenage-daughter-wrangling and much more.

Kathy first achieved success as a teenager with the novel *Puberty Blues*, which was made into a major film and a TV mini-series.

After several years as a newspaper columnist and TV sitcom writer in America and Australia, she's written 12 international bestsellers in her characteristic witty voice, including *Mad Cows* (which was made into a film starring Joanna Lumley and Anna Friel), *The Boy*



Who Fell to Earth, Courting Trouble, and Best Laid Plans – soon to be an eight-hour TV series.

Her novels have been published in 17 languages around the world.

Kathy appears regularly as a commentator on the BBC and Sky News. She is also an ambassador for Plan International, Ambitious about Autism and the National Autistic

Society.

She lives in London and can often be found at The Savoy (where she was writer in residence) drinking a cocktail named after her.

She will be making her way to The Theatre Chipping Norton on March 16 at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £15.50. For more information or book head to chippingnortontheatre.com

Friendly folk at The Mill



Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman  
Picture: Nikki Bidgood

WITH a new album due out Dartmoor-based husband and wife duo Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman will play Banbury's Mill Theatre.

The pair, who have twice won the coveted Best Duo title at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2016 and 2013, are in Banbury on March 16.

With more than two decades of performance the pair mix traditional song arrangements with their self-penned material which reels from the bitter to the sweet, the wry to the sad, the political to the passive, across folk, rock, country and blues genres.

Lakeman plays the acoustic and electric guitarist as well as producing, while vocalist Roberts plays the piano and flute.

Launching their new album *Personae* tomorrow, this marks their fifth studio album, and it will be show-

cased on the duo's 25 date tour.

This latest album opens with a folk-rock version of the Child Ballad *The Knight's Ghost*, with Sam Kelly on guest vocals. One of the stand-out tracks is *Independence*, about the relationship between parent and child and finding your way in the world.

Kathryn said: "We are really looking forward to visiting The Mill again.

"Previous gigs there have always been warm and friendly and the intimacy really suits our style of music.

"We are planning to play a mix of old favourites and introduce new songs from our upcoming CD *Personae*, it will be the second night in a 25 date tour so our energy levels will still be high."

Tickets from £17, for more information or to book call 01295 279002 or go to themillartscentre.co.uk

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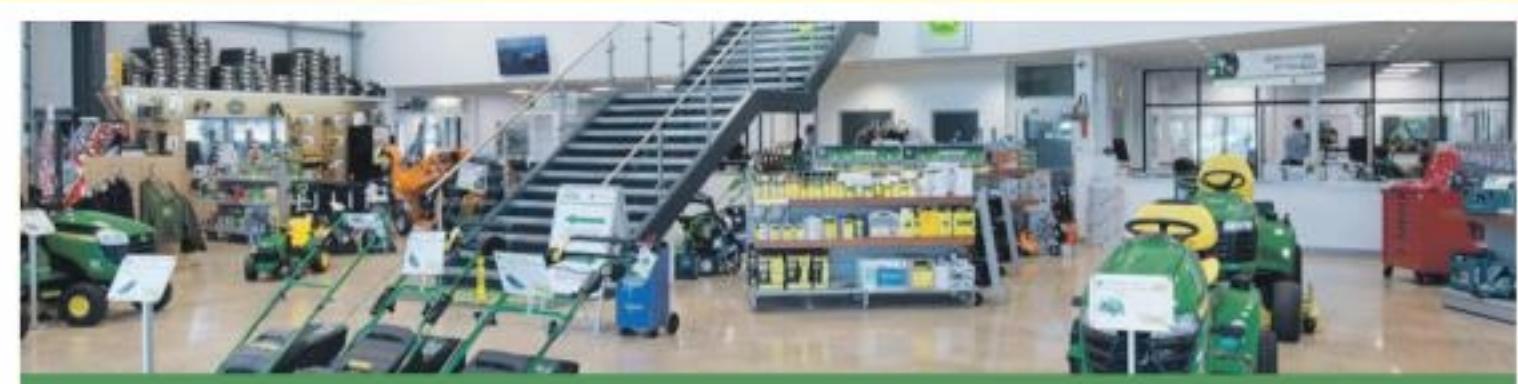


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Out &amp; About

# Shakespeare in the local

By Josh Cox

INSTEAD of a Kingdom - a pub. Instead of a King - Mr Lear, the landlord.

When he announces his retirement and the division of his kingdom between his daughters, Mr Lear imitates his famous namesake and demands to know which of them loves him the most. In so doing he unleashes a tide of pent-up frustration and jealousy.

The Cornerstone in Didcot is to host this wonderful adaptation of Shakespeare's King Lear this March.

Hilarious and heart breaking, The King Lear will unfold using physical theatre, clowning and vibrant storytelling all linked by Shakespeare's magnificent text.

What started as a game became real as Shifting Sands Theatre Company play with Shakespeare's ingredients yet remain faithful to his themes.

There will be irreverence, but by no means parody. The result, nothing short of comic, exhilarating, heart-felt theatre.

"I am delighted to be able to retell this classic", said artistic director Gerry Flanagan. "It's one of my favourites [and] being able to tour The King Lear is very exciting."

Shifting Sands was founded in 1998 to create stimulating, acces-



sible theatre that is both comic and moving. The company is particularly interested in re-interpreting classic texts and epic tales. It has won critical acclaim for its many touring productions that include Faustus, Romeo & Juliet, The Seagull and Great Expectations. To date the company has created nine shows and been on eight UK wide tours.

Flanagan is one of England's most

sought after clown practitioners and Shifting Sands has grown out of his work.

The King Lear will take to the Cornerstone stage on March 22 at 7.30pm. Full price adult tickets cost £12.50 with discounts available for concessions and under 16s.

To book tickets or for more information visit [cornerstone-arts.org](http://cornerstone-arts.org) or call the box office on 01235 515144.



## Special escape only grandad knows

Syd's favourite person in the whole wide world is grandad and grandad's favourite person is Syd.

Join the intrepid duo as they head off on a heart-warming adventure filled with songs, laughter and jungles that will change their lives forever.

This family show is based on the book by Benji Davies who is an illustrator, author and animation director; Grandad's Island won the children's book category of the AOI World Illustration Awards 2015 and was crowned Best Picture Book and overall Children's Book of the Year at the Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards 2015.

Director Matt Aston said: "I first read Grandad's Island in a book shop in the summer of 2015 whilst looking for a new story for my two boys. I knew immediately I wanted to adapt it for the stage.

"Several meetings, two Arts Council bids and two and half years later we're ready to share our version of Benji's beautiful book."

Grandad's Island comes to the Cornerstone in Didcot on March 24 with two performances; 11am and 2pm.

Tickets are £8, with concessions costing £6. To book your place, head to [cornerstone-arts.org](http://cornerstone-arts.org) or call 01235 515144.

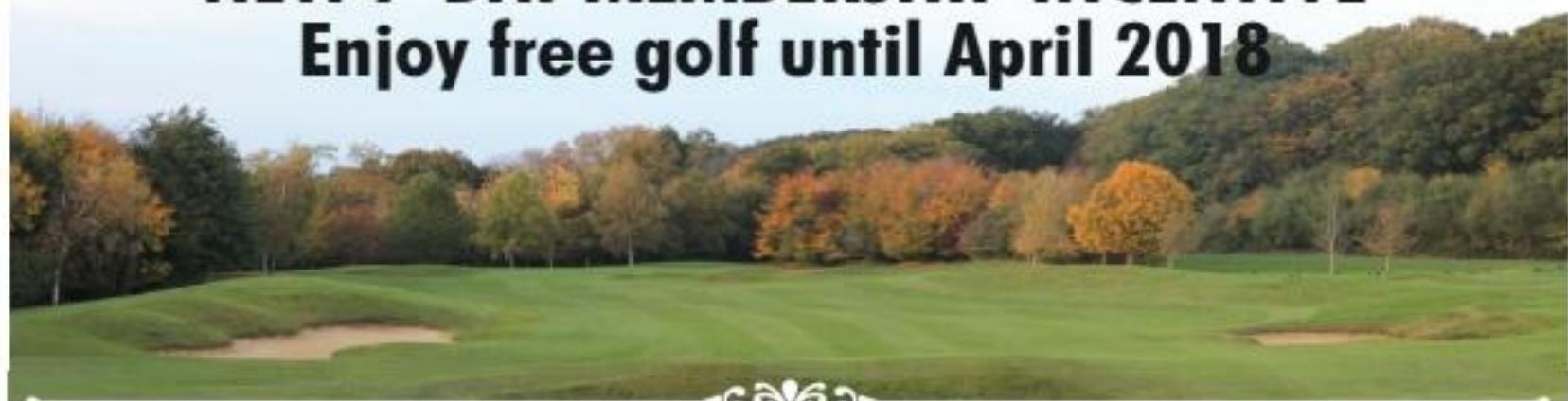
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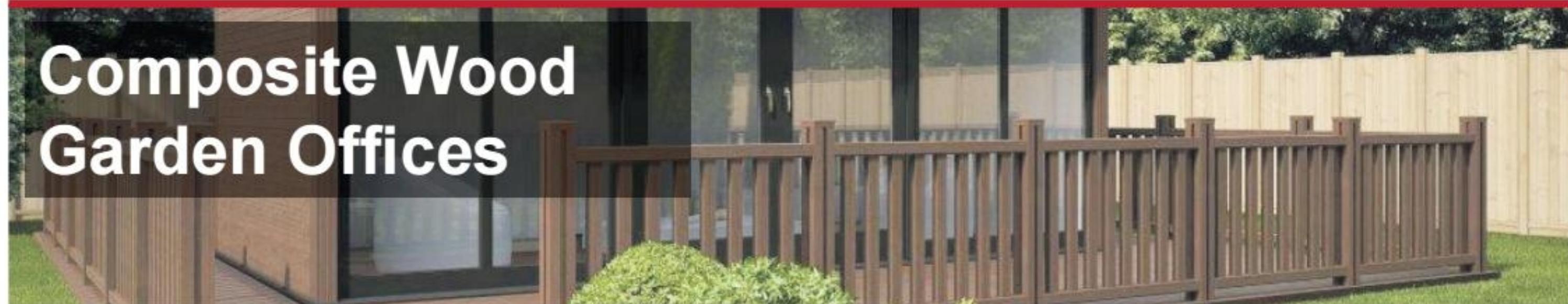
Over the last 30 years block paving has become the most popular choice for driveways and paths, due to its durability and the huge range of styles and materials available.

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Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>

TOP TV

MORNING

EVENING

# The Schools Challenge 2018

**We have teamed up with Lodge Hill Garage MG**

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For more info please contact Charlotte on 01844 238308 or info@theschoolschallenge.co.uk  
For full rules please visit [www.theschoolschallenge.co.uk](http://www.theschoolschallenge.co.uk) [www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk](http://www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk)

## BBC 1



**9.15am** Murder, Mystery and My Family  
**10.00am** Homes Under the Hammer  
**11.00am** Wanted Down Under Revisited  
**11.45am** Caught Red Handed

**12.15pm** Bargain Hunt

**1.00pm** BBC News at One  
**1.30pm** Regional News and Weather  
**1.45pm** Doctors  
**2.15pm** Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators  
**3.00pm** Escape to the Country  
**3.45pm** Coast and Country Auctions  
**4.30pm** Antiques Road Trip  
**5.15pm** Pointless

**6.00pm** BBC News at Six

**6.30pm** Regional News and Weather  
**7.00pm** The One Show  
**7.30pm** EastEnders  
**8.00pm** MasterChef  
**9.00pm** Not Going Out  
**9.30pm** Still Game  
**10.00pm** BBC News at Ten  
**10.30pm** Regional News and Weather  
**10.45pm** Question Time  
**11.45pm** This Week  
**12.30am** Weather for the Week Ahead  
**12.35am** BBC News  
**6.00am** Breakfast

## BBC 2



**7.15am** Wanted Down Under Revisited  
**8.00am** Earth's Natural Wonders  
**9.00am** Victoria Derbyshire  
**11.00am** BBC Newsroom Live

**12.00pm** The Daily Politics  
**1.00pm** Perfection  
**1.45pm** Plan it, Build it  
**2.15pm** Yes Chef  
**3.00pm** A Place to Call Home  
**3.50pm** A Place to Call Home  
**4.45pm** More Creatures Great and Small  
**5.15pm** Flog It!

**6.00pm** Eggheads  
**6.30pm** Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland  
**7.00pm** Saving Lives at Sea  
**8.00pm** Great Continental Railway Journeys  
**9.00pm** Civilisations  
**10.00pm** Match of the Day  
**10.30pm** Newsnight  
**11.15pm** Top Gear  
**12.15am** Nigel Slater's Middle East: Turkey  
**1.15am** Royal Recipes  
**2.00am** This is BBC Two

## ITV



**8.00pm** Emmerdale  
**8.30am** Lorraine  
**9.25am** The Jeremy Kyle Show  
**10.30am** This Morning

**12.30pm** Loose Women  
**1.30pm** ITV Lunchtime News  
**1.55pm** ITV News London  
**2.00pm** James Martin's American Adventure  
**3.00pm** Tenable  
**4.00pm** Tipping Point  
**5.00pm** The Chase

**6.00pm** ITV News London  
**6.30pm** ITV Evening News  
**7.00pm** Emmerdale  
**7.30pm** Tonight  
**8.00pm** Emmerdale  
**8.30pm** The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska  
**9.00pm** Rachel Nickell: The Untold Story  
**10.00pm** ITV News at Ten and Weather  
**10.30pm** ITV News London  
**10.45pm** UEFA Europa League Highlights  
**11.45pm** Play to the Whistle  
**12.35am** Lethal Weapon  
**1.20am** Jackpot247

## Channel 4



**9.00pm** Married at First Sight  
**7.10am** 3rd Rock from the Sun  
**7.35am** Everybody Loves Raymond  
**8.30am** Frasier  
**10.00am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA  
**11.00am** Undercover Boss USA

**12.00pm** Channel 4 News  
**12.05pm** Come Dine with Me  
**1.05pm** Posh Pawnbrokers  
**2.10pm** Countdown  
**3.00pm** Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare  
**4.00pm** A New Life in the Sun  
**5.00pm** Four in a Bed  
**5.30pm** Extreme Cake Makers

**6.00pm** The Simpsons  
**6.30pm** Hollyoaks  
**7.00pm** Channel 4 News  
**8.00pm** Crufts 2018  
**9.00pm** Married at First Sight  
**10.00pm** The Job Interview  
**11.05pm** Gogglebox  
**12.10am** Seven Year Switch  
**1.05am** One Born Every Minute  
**2.00am** Damned  
**2.30am** Electric Dreams  
**3.25am** Dispatches  
**3.55am** Coast v Country  
**4.50am** Location, Location, Location

## Channel 5



**8.00pm** Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun  
**8.20am** Digby Dragon  
**8.35am** Rusty Rivets  
**8.55am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom  
**9.05am** Mofy  
**9.15am** The Wright Stuff  
**11.15am** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

**12.10pm** 5 News Lunchtime  
**12.15pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
**1.15pm** Home and Away  
**1.45pm** Neighbours  
**2.20pm** NCIS  
**3.20pm** A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery  
**5.00pm** 5 News at 5  
**5.30pm** Neighbours

**6.00pm** Home and Away  
**6.30pm** 5 News Tonight  
**7.00pm** The Secret Life of Kittens  
**8.00pm** Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun  
**9.00pm** Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth  
**10.00pm** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door  
**11.05pm** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords  
**12.00am** Super Casino  
**3.10am** Cowboy Builders  
**4.00am** Now That's Funny!  
**4.45am** House Doctor

Advertisorial

## MG / Lodge Hill Garage & The Oxford Gun Company / The Schools Challenge Team Up!!!

The National Schools Challenge has just got even bigger and better for 2018!!! Any young person under 21 can enter as long as they are in full time education.

MG Car Company and The Oxford Gun Company have teamed up to provide one of the biggest prizes for young sportsmen and women ever offered. Lodge Hill Garage MG was pleased to team up with The Oxford Gun Company as they both have a long history of good customer service. It has always been our aim to encourage youngsters to take up sport with the aim of representing their County at International level. The Schools Challenge Group competitions start on Wednesday 14th March and run until December with nine qualifying rounds leading up to the final to encourage them to work to improve over the year. Lodge Hill Garage MG will be working with The Oxford Gun Company to promote MG cars throughout Oxfordshire and the surrounding Counties. Progress can be followed on our very own

Youtube channel, which is now the fastest growing shooting Youtube channel in the world. The Shooting Channel link can be found by logging on to: [https://youtu.be/\\_UNjq7fQtGs](https://youtu.be/_UNjq7fQtGs)

For more information about MG Cars please phone or email Darren Corps (Head Of Sales) 01865 326666 or cars@lodgehillgarage.com and for more information about The Schools Challenge or The Oxford Gun Company please phone David on 01844 238 308 or email: David@oxfordguncompany.

co.uk

Nigel Murrin MD of Lodge Hill Garage and Doug Florent of the Oxford Gun Company launched the partnership of the two companies at the Oxford Gun Company's grounds in Oakley Oxfordshire.

Two MG 3's will be given away as first prizes in the School's Challenge; one for top boy and one for top girl. Nigel said on the day 'It's a great opportunity for two local companies to join together to promote their products.'



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March 2018  
9.30am - 12.00pm**

# Cokethorpe SCHOOL

HMC and IAPS Independent Day School for boys and girls aged 4-18.

[www.cokethorpe.org.uk](http://www.cokethorpe.org.uk)

Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>

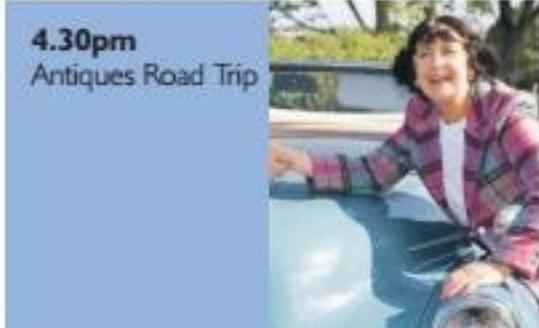
TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

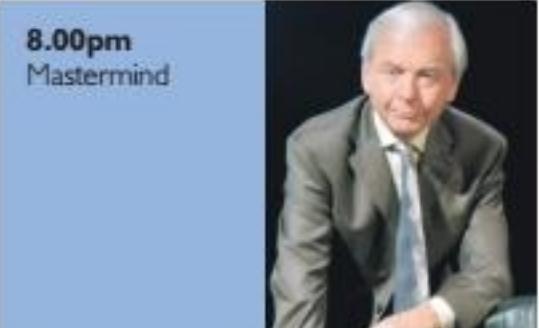
## BBC 1



4.30pm Antiques Road Trip

9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family  
 10.00am Homes Under the Hammer  
 11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited  
 11.45am Caught Red Handed

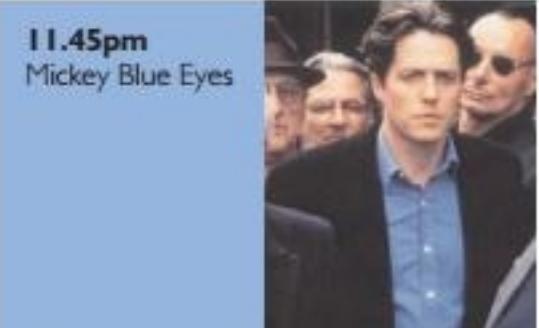
## BBC 2



8.00pm Mastermind

7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited  
 8.00am Back in Time for Tea  
 9.00am Victoria Derbyshire  
 11.00am BBC Newsroom Live

## ITV



11.45pm Mickey Blue Eyes

8.30am Lorraine  
 9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
 10.30am This Morning

## Channel 4



9.00pm Gogglebox

7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond  
 8.30am Frasier  
 10.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA  
 10.55am Winter Paralympics Opening Ceremony Live

## Channel 5



7.00pm The Gadget Show

8.20am Digby Dragon  
 8.35am Rusty Rivets  
 8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom  
 9.05am Mofy  
 9.15am The Wright Stuff  
 11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime  
 12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
 1.15pm Home and Away  
 1.45pm Neighbours  
 2.15pm NCIS  
 3.15pm The Perfect Roommate  
 5.00pm 5 News at 5  
 5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm BBC News at Six  
 6.30pm Regional News and Weather  
 7.00pm The One Show  
 7.30pm MasterChef  
 8.00pm EastEnders  
 8.30pm Room 101  
 9.00pm Requiem  
 10.00pm BBC News at Ten  
 10.25pm Regional News and Weather  
 10.35pm The Young Offenders  
 11.05pm Captain America: the Winter Soldier  
 1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead  
 1.15am BBC News

12.00pm The Daily Politics  
 1.00pm Perfection  
 1.45pm Plan it, Build it  
 2.15pm Yes Chef  
 3.00pm A Place to Call Home  
 3.50pm A Place to Call Home  
 4.40pm More Creatures Great and Small  
 5.10pm Flog It!

12.30pm Loose Women  
 1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News  
 1.55pm ITV News London  
 2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure  
 3.00pm Tenable  
 4.00pm Tipping Point  
 5.00pm The Chase

1.00pm Channel 4 News  
 1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers  
 2.10pm Countdown  
 3.00pm Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare  
 4.00pm A New Life in the Sun  
 5.00pm Four in a Bed  
 5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

6.00pm The Simpsons  
 6.30pm Hollyoaks  
 7.00pm Channel 4 News  
 7.30pm Crufts 2018  
 9.00pm Gogglebox  
 10.00pm The Last Leg  
 11.05pm 8 Out of 10 Cats  
 11.55pm The Inbetweeners  
 12.30am Winter Paralympics Live  
 6.00am Winter Paralympics Live

6.00pm ITV News London  
 6.30pm Journey Goes to Ireland  
 7.00pm Saving Lives at Sea  
 7.30pm Coronation Street  
 8.00pm Mastermind  
 8.30pm Gardeners' World  
 9.00pm Putin: The New Tsar  
 10.00pm QI  
 10.30pm Newsnight  
 11.05pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story  
 11.55pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby  
 12.55am Girls on the Edge

6.00pm Home and Away  
 6.30pm 5 News Tonight  
 7.00pm The Gadget Show  
 8.00pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard  
 9.00pm Jane McDonald and Friends  
 10.00pm Will and Grace  
 10.30pm French and Saunders  
 11.30pm That's So... 1990  
 12.15am Super Casino  
 3.10am The X Files  
 4.00am The X Files  
 4.45am House Doctor  
 5.10am Nick's Quest

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Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>

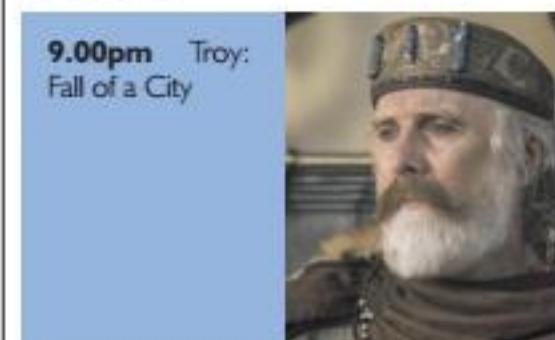
TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

## BBC 1



**9.00pm** Troy: Fall of a City

## BBC 2



**7.00pm** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby

## ITV



**11.05pm** 2 Fast 2 Furious

## Channel 4



**10.50pm** First Dates

## Channel 5



**5.00pm** The Secret Life of Kittens

**10.05am** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
**10.35am** Make You Laugh Out Loud  
**11.00am** Britain's Greatest Bridges  
**11.15am** The Gadget Show

**12.15pm** Police Interceptors  
**1.15pm** Police Interceptors  
**2.15pm** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!  
**3.10pm** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!  
**4.05pm** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!  
**5.00pm** The Secret Life of Kittens

**6.00pm** Cruising with Jane McDonald  
**7.00pm** Brunel  
**8.00pm** Brunel  
**8.55pm** 5 News  
**9.00pm** Football on 5  
**10.00pm** Football on 5  
**10.30pm** Jane McDonald and Friends  
**11.25pm** Celebrity Five Go Motorhoming  
**12.15am** Super Casino  
**3.10am** Cowboy Builders  
**4.00am** Cowboy Builders  
**4.45am** House Doctor  
**5.10am** HouseBusters  
**5.35am** Wildlife SOS

**12.00pm** Football Focus

**1.00pm** BBC News  
**1.10pm** Weather  
**1.15pm** MasterChef  
**2.15pm** Coast and Country Auctions  
**3.00pm** Money for Nothing  
**4.00pm** Six Nations Rugby Union

**12.00pm** Cats v Dogs: Which is Best?

**1.00pm** The Caine Mutiny  
**3.00pm** Escape to the Country  
**3.30pm** Me and My Dog  
**4.30pm** Final Score  
**5.30pm** Flog It!

**1.15pm** ITV News and Weather

**1.25pm** Six Nations Live  
**4.30pm** Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs  
**5.00pm** The Chase

**12.25pm** The Simpsons

**12.55pm** The Simpsons  
**1.25pm** Come Dine with Me  
**2.25pm** Coast v Country  
**3.25pm** A Place in the Sun  
**4.30pm** Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare  
**5.30pm** Channel 4 News

**7.00pm** BBC News

**7.10pm** Regional News  
**7.15pm** Weather  
**7.20pm** Pointless  
**8.10pm** Casualty  
**9.00pm** Troy: Fall of a City  
**10.00pm** BBC News  
**10.15pm** Weather  
**10.20pm** Match of the Day  
**11.45pm** A Few Best Men  
**1.15am** Weather for the Week Ahead  
**1.20am** BBC News  
**6.00am** Breakfast

**6.00pm** Hugh's Wild West

**7.00pm** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby  
**8.00pm** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities  
**8.30pm** Dad's Army  
**9.00pm** Hitchcock's Shower Scene: 78/52  
**10.30pm** QI XL  
**11.15pm** Dial M for Murder  
**12.55am** The Lady Vanishes  
**2.25am** Civilisations  
**3.25am** This is BBC Two  
**6.10am** Coast

**6.00pm** ITV News and Weather

**6.15pm** Local News and Weather  
**6.30pm** You've Been Framed!  
**7.00pm** Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
**8.30pm** The Voice UK  
**9.50pm** Piers Morgan's Life Stories  
**10.40pm** ITV News and Weather  
**11.05pm** 2 Fast 2 Furious  
**1.05am** Jackpot247  
**3.00am** Babushka  
**3.50am** ITV Nightscreen  
**6.00am** CITV

**6.00pm** Winter Paralympics Today

**7.00pm** Crufts 2018  
**9.00pm** 45 Years  
**10.50pm** First Dates  
**11.55pm** The Inbetweeners  
**12.30am** Winter Paralympics Live  
**5.00am** Food Unwrapped  
**5.30am** Streetmate  
**5.55am** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free  
**6.10am** 3rd Rock from the Sun  
**6.35am** 3rd Rock from the Sun

**6.00pm** Cruising with Jane McDonald

**7.00pm** Brunel  
**8.00pm** Brunel  
**8.55pm** 5 News  
**9.00pm** Football on 5  
**10.00pm** Football on 5  
**10.30pm** Jane McDonald and Friends  
**11.25pm** Celebrity Five Go Motorhoming  
**12.15am** Super Casino  
**3.10am** Cowboy Builders  
**4.00am** Cowboy Builders  
**4.45am** House Doctor  
**5.10am** HouseBusters  
**5.35am** Wildlife SOS



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Earth Trust relies on the funds raised at Lambing to care for the greenspaces you love  
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Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

## BBC 1



8.00pm Call the Midwife

7.30am Match of the Day

9.00am The Andrew Marr Show

10.00am The Big Questions

11.00am Sunday Politics

12.15pm BBC News

12.25pm Weather for the Week Ahead

12.30pm MasterChef

1.30pm MasterChef

2.00pm Songs of Praise

2.35pm Six Nations Rugby Union

5.05pm Earth's Natural Wonders

6.05pm BBC News

6.20pm Regional News

6.25pm Weather

6.30pm Countryfile

7.30pm Hold the Sunset

8.00pm Call the Midwife

9.00pm Sir Bruce Forsyth: A Celebration

10.05pm BBC News

10.25pm Regional News

10.30pm Weather

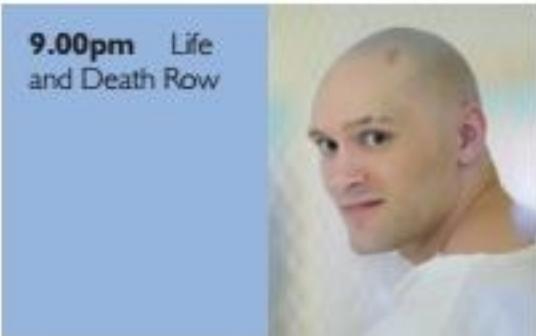
10.35pm Match of the Day 2

11.35pm Fright Night

1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead

1.15am BBC News

## BBC 2



9.00pm Life and Death Row

8.35am Countryfile

9.30am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites

11.00am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge

11.45am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra

1.00pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives

2.00pm Money for Nothing

2.45pm Laura

4.10pm Back in Time for Tea

5.10pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes

6.10pm Deep Impact

8.00pm Top Gear

9.00pm Life and Death Row

10.20pm Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You

11.00pm Top Gear Extra Gear

11.25pm Women's Six Nations Highlights

11.45pm Question Time

12.45am Panorama

1.55am This is BBC Two

6.00am Caught Red Handed

6.30am Coast and Country Auctions

## ITV



12.30pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway

9.25am ITV News

9.30am Love Your Garden

10.00am Peston on Sunday

11.00am The Voice UK

12.20pm ITV News and Weather

12.30pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway

2.00pm Britain's Brightest Family

2.30pm Catchphrase

3.30pm Tipping Point

4.30pm ITV News and Weather

4.45pm Local News and Weather

5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Dancing on Ice

8.00pm Endeavour

10.00pm ITV News and Weather

10.15pm Peston on Sunday

11.15pm Six Nations Highlights

12.15am 100 Year Old Driving School

12.40am Marcella

1.30am Jackpot247

3.00am Take on the Twisters

3.50am ITV Nightscreen

5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show

6.00am Good Morning Britain

## Channel 4



9.00pm Homeland

7.00am Tennis

8.00am Winter Paralympics Breakfast

9.00am Frasier

9.30am Sunday Brunch

12.30pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food

1.05pm The Simpsons

1.40pm The Simpsons

2.10pm The Simpsons

2.40pm The Simpsons

3.10pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer

4.25pm Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare

5.30pm Channel 4 News

6.00pm Winter Paralympics Today

7.00pm Crufts 2018

9.00pm Homeland

10.00pm The Last Leg Winter Paralympic Special

11.00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown

12.00am Married at First Sight

1.00am The Inbetweeners

1.30am Winter Paralympics Live

6.00am Winter Paralympics Live

7.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

8.55pm 5 News

9.00pm A Walk Among the Tombstones

11.10pm Rise of the Krays

1.10am Super Casino

3.10am Cowboy Builders

4.00am Now That's Funny!

4.45am House Doctor

5.10am HouseBusters

5.35am Wildlife SOS

6.00am Milkshake!

## Channel 5



3.30pm Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2

10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

10.40am Football on 5

11.30am Football on 5

12.00pm Police Interceptors

1.00pm Police Interceptors

2.00pm Open Season 2

3.30pm Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2

5.15pm Journey 2: The Mysterious Island

## Reader travel



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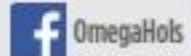
Visit: [www.omega-holidays.com/KME646](http://www.omega-holidays.com/KME646)

The advertised price is correct as of 4 September 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on all dates shown.

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability. \*We have included the current flight price within the above package price. Should the cost of flights change the package price may vary. The final price will be confirmed to you at time of booking.

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Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1



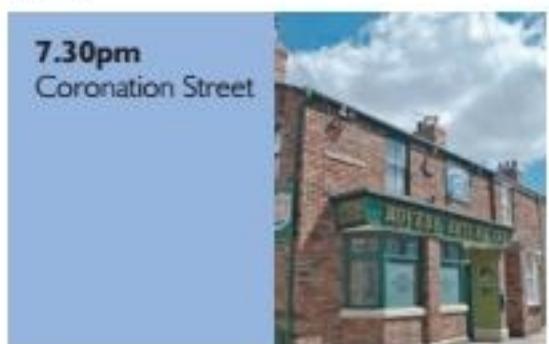
9.00pm MasterChef  
9.15am Holding Back the Years  
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer  
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming  
11.45am Caught Red Handed

BBC 2



8.00pm Only Connect  
7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited  
8.00am Hugh's Wild West  
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire  
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live  
11.30am The Week in Parliament

ITV



7.30pm Coronation Street  
8.30am Lorraine  
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
10.30am This Morning

Channel 4



8.30pm Food Unwrapped  
8.00am Winter Paralympics Breakfast  
9.00am Frasier  
9.35am Frasier  
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA  
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

Channel 5



11.00pm The X-Files  
9.15am The Wright Stuff  
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

12.15pm Bargain Hunt  
1.00pm BBC News  
1.30pm Regional News  
1.45pm Doctors  
2.15pm Escape to the Country  
2.45pm Commonwealth Observance Day  
4.15pm Flog It!  
5.15pm Pointless

12.00pm The Daily Politics  
1.00pm Women's Six Nations Highlights  
1.30pm Yes Chef  
2.15pm Your Home in Their Hands  
3.15pm Planet Earth I  
4.15pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan  
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

12.30pm Loose Women  
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News  
2.00pm Judge Rinder  
3.00pm Tenable  
4.00pm Tipping Point  
5.00pm The Chase

12.00pm Channel 4 News  
12.05pm Come Dine with Me  
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers  
2.10pm Countdown  
3.00pm A Place in the Sun  
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun  
5.00pm Four in a Bed  
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

12.10pm 5 News  
12.15pm The Gadget Show  
1.10pm Access  
1.15pm Home and Away  
1.45pm Neighbours  
2.15pm NCIS  
3.15pm A Surrogate's Terror  
5.00pm 5 News  
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm BBC News  
6.30pm Regional News  
7.00pm The One Show  
7.30pm Inside Out  
8.00pm EastEnders  
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry  
9.00pm MasterChef  
10.00pm BBC News  
10.30pm Regional News  
10.40pm Weather  
10.45pm Imagine...  
12.25am Have I Got a Bit More  
Old News for You  
1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead

6.00pm Eggheads  
6.30pm The Repair Shop  
7.00pm Top Gear  
8.00pm Only Connect  
8.30pm University Challenge  
9.00pm Being Blacker  
10.30pm Newsnight  
11.10pm Weather  
11.15pm Putin: The New Tsar  
12.15am Odyssey  
12.55am Odyssey  
1.40am Panorama  
2.10am Countryfile  
3.05am Royal Recipes

6.00pm Local News and Weather  
6.30pm ITV Evening News  
7.00pm Emmerdale  
7.30pm Coronation Street  
8.00pm The Kyle Files  
8.30pm Coronation Street  
9.00pm Marcella  
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather  
10.45pm Rachel Nickell: The Untold Story  
11.50pm The Kyle Files  
12.15am 100 Years Younger in 21 Days  
1.05am Jackpot247  
3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show

6.00pm The Simpsons  
6.30pm Hollyoaks  
7.00pm Channel 4 News  
7.30pm Winter Paralympics Today  
8.00pm Dispatches  
8.30pm Food Unwrapped  
9.00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody  
10.00pm Electric Dreams  
11.00pm Winter Paralympics Highlights  
12.15am Winter Paralympics Live  
6.00am Winter Paralympics Live

6.00pm Home and Away  
6.30pm 5 News  
7.00pm Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights  
8.00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue  
9.00pm Super Scary Plane Landings  
10.00pm Police  
11.00pm The X Files  
11.55pm Traffic Cops  
12.55am Britain's Greatest Bridges  
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3.10am Cowboy Builders  
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Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>

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MORNING

AFTERNOON

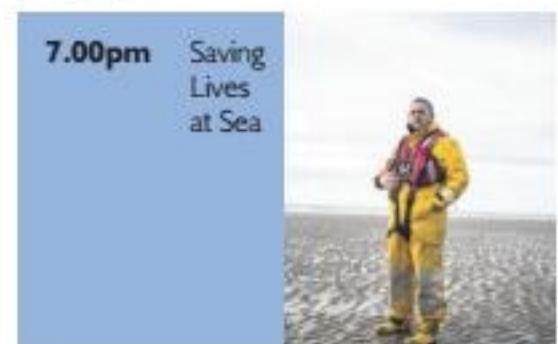
EVENING

BBC 1



**9.00pm** Shetland  
**9.15am** Holding Back the Years  
**10.00am** Homes Under the Hammer  
**11.00am** The Sheriffs are Coming  
**11.45am** Caught Red Handed

BBC 2



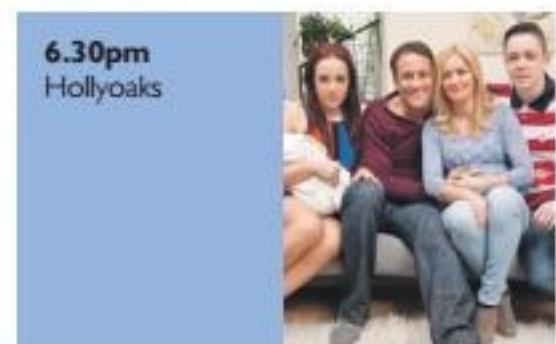
**7.00pm** Saving Lives at Sea  
**7.15am** The Sheriffs are Coming  
**8.00am** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip  
**9.00am** Victoria Derbyshire  
**11.00am** BBC Newsroom Live

ITV



**11.15pm** Benidorm  
**8.30am** Lorraine  
**9.25am** The Jeremy Kyle Show  
**10.30am** This Morning

Channel 4



**6.30pm** Hollyoaks  
**8.00am** Winter Paralympics Breakfast  
**9.00am** Frasier  
**9.35am** Frasier  
**10.05am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA  
**11.00am** Undercover Boss USA

Channel 5



**9.00pm** Wild Britain with Ray Mears  
**9.15am** The Wright Stuff  
**11.15am** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!  
**12.10pm** 5 News

**12.15pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
**1.10pm** Access  
**1.15pm** Home and Away  
**1.45pm** Neighbours  
**2.15pm** NCIS  
**3.15pm** McBride: It's Murder, Madam  
**5.00pm** 5 News  
**5.30pm** Neighbours

**6.00pm** BBC News  
**6.30pm** Regional News  
**7.00pm** The One Show  
**7.30pm** EastEnders  
**8.00pm** Holby City  
**9.00pm** Shetland  
**10.00pm** BBC News  
**10.30pm** Regional News  
**10.40pm** Weather  
**10.45pm** This Country  
**11.15pm** Rehab: Addicted Lives  
**12.35am** Weather for the Week Ahead  
**12.40am** BBC News  
**6.00am** Breakfast

**12.00pm** The Daily Politics  
**1.00pm** The Super League Show  
**1.45pm** Yes Chef  
**2.30pm** Your Home in Their Hands  
**3.30pm** Planet Earth I  
**4.30pm** Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan  
**5.30pm** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

**12.30pm** ITV Lunchtime News  
**1.00pm** Cheltenham Festival  
**4.30pm** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury  
**5.00pm** The Chase

**12.00pm** Channel 4 News  
**12.05pm** Come Dine with Me  
**1.05pm** Posh Pawnbrokers  
**2.10pm** Countdown  
**3.00pm** A Place in the Sun  
**4.00pm** A New Life in the Sun  
**5.00pm** Four in a Bed  
**5.30pm** Extreme Cake Makers

**6.00pm** Eggheads  
**6.30pm** The Repair Shop  
**7.00pm** Saving Lives at Sea  
**8.00pm** Back in Time for Tea  
**9.00pm** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby  
**10.00pm** Mum  
**10.25pm** The Archiveologists  
**10.30pm** Newsnight  
**11.10pm** Weather  
**11.15pm** World's Most Extraordinary Homes  
**12.15am** MasterChef  
**1.15am** An Island Parish

**6.00pm** Local News and Weather  
**6.30pm** ITV Evening News  
**7.00pm** Emmerdale  
**8.00pm** What Would Your Kid Do?  
**9.00pm** 100 Years Younger in 21 Days  
**10.00pm** ITV News at Ten and Weather  
**10.45pm** The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska  
**11.15pm** Benidorm  
**12.15am** Piers Morgan's Life Stories  
**1.05am** Jackpot247  
**3.00am** ITV Nightscreen  
**5.05am** The Jeremy Kyle Show  
**6.00am** Good Morning Britain

**6.00pm** The Simpsons  
**6.30pm** Hollyoaks  
**7.00pm** Channel 4 News  
**7.30pm** Winter Paralympics Today  
**8.00pm** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer  
**9.15pm** Seven Year Switch  
**10.20pm** Gogglebox  
**11.00pm** Winter Paralympics Highlights  
**12.15am** Winter Paralympics Live  
**6.00am** Winter Paralympics Live

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Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

## BBC 1



**8.00pm** DIY SOS the Big Build

**9.15am** Holding Back the Years

**10.00am** Homes Under the Hammer

**11.00am** The Sheriffs are Coming

**11.45am** Caught Red Handed

**12.15pm** Bargain Hunt

**1.00pm** BBC News

**1.30pm** Regional News

**1.45pm** Doctors

**2.15pm** A Place to Call Home

**3.10pm** Escape to the Country

**3.45pm** Coast and Country Auctions

**4.30pm** Flog It!

**5.15pm** Pointless

**6.00pm** BBC News

**6.30pm** Regional News

**7.00pm** The One Show

**7.30pm** Panorama

**8.00pm** DIY SOS the Big Build

**9.00pm** Saving the British Bulldog

**10.00pm** BBC News

**10.30pm** Regional News

**10.40pm** Weather

**10.45pm** A Question of Sport

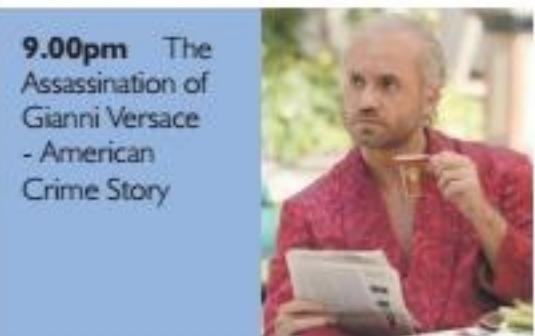
**11.15pm** Film 2018

**11.45pm** The Artist

**1.20am** Weather for the Week Ahead

**1.25am** BBC News

## BBC 2



**9.00pm** The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story

**7.15am** The Sheriffs are Coming

**8.00am** Great British Railway Journeys

**8.30am** Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs

**9.00am** Victoria Derbyshire

**11.00am** BBC Newsroom Live

**11.30am** The Daily Politics

**1.00pm** Two Tribes

**1.30pm** Yes Chef

**2.15pm** Your Home in Their Hands

**3.15pm** Planet Earth I

**4.15pm** Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan

**5.15pm** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

**6.00pm** Eggheads

**6.30pm** The Repair Shop

**7.00pm** Saving Lives at Sea

**8.00pm** World's Most Extraordinary Homes

**9.00pm** The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story

**9.50pm** Live at the Apollo

**10.30pm** Newsnight

**11.10pm** Weather

**11.15pm** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby

**12.15am** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities

## ITV



**9.00pm** Benidorm

**8.30am** Lorraine

**9.25am** The Jeremy Kyle Show

**10.30am** This Morning

**12.30pm** ITV Lunchtime News

**1.00pm** Cheltenham Festival

**4.30pm** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury

**5.00pm** The Chase

**6.00pm** Local News and Weather

**6.30pm** ITV Evening News

**7.00pm** Emmerdale

**7.30pm** Coronation Street

**8.00pm** Britain's Brightest Family

**8.30pm** Coronation Street

**9.00pm** Benidorm

**10.00pm** ITV News at Ten and Weather

**10.45pm** UEFA Champions League Highlights

**11.45pm** Play to the Whistle

**12.40am** Jackpot247

**3.00am** Tenable

**3.50am** ITV Nightscreen

## Channel 4



**8.00pm** The Supervet

**8.00am** Winter Paralympics Breakfast

**9.00am** Frasier

**9.35am** Frasier

**10.05am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA

**11.00am** Undercover Boss USA

**12.00pm** Channel 4 News

**12.05pm** Come Dine with Me

**1.05pm** Posh Pawnbrokers

**2.10pm** Countdown

**3.00pm** A Place in the Sun

**4.00pm** A New Life in the Sun

**5.00pm** Four in a Bed

**5.30pm** Extreme Cake Makers

**6.00pm** The Simpsons

**6.30pm** Hollyoaks

**7.00pm** Channel 4 News

**7.30pm** Winter Paralympics Today

**8.00pm** The Supervet

**9.00pm** One Born Every Minute

**10.00pm** Damned

**10.30pm** 8 Out of 10 Cats

**11.00pm** Winter Paralympics Highlights

**12.15am** Winter Paralympics Live

**4.30am** Coast v Country

**5.25am** Food Unwrapped

**5.50am** Streetmate

**6.15am** 3rd Rock from the Sun

## Channel 5



**8.00pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors

**9.15am** The Wright Stuff

**11.15am** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

**12.10pm** 5 News

**12.15pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors

**1.05pm** Access

**1.15pm** Home and Away

**1.45pm** Neighbours

**2.15pm** NCIS

**3.15pm** Buried Secrets

**5.00pm** 5 News

**5.30pm** Neighbours

**6.00pm** Home and Away

**6.30pm** 5 News

**7.00pm** Extreme Winter Road Rescue

**8.00pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors

**9.00pm** Violent Child, Desperate Parents

**10.00pm** When Talent Shows

**10.30pm** Go Horribly Wrong

**1.00am** Super Casino

**3.10am** Cowboy Builders

**4.00am** Now That's Funny!

**4.45am** House Doctor

**5.10am** HouseBusters

**5.35am** Wildlife SOS

**6.00am** Milkshake!

## Reader travel



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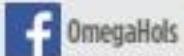
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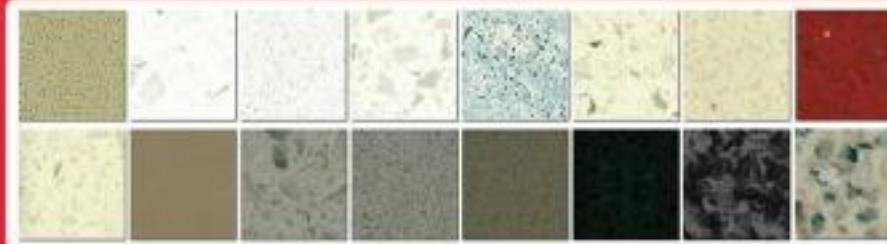
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# Is Oxford property delivering?

Bill Cooper, co-author of *The Oxford Property Blog* and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Anyone who follows my blog will know that I like to explore the 'inside story' of the Oxford property market, digging beneath the headlines to understand the market at a more 'granular' level.

To much commentary on the Oxford property market takes the latest 1-month trend and uses it to justify a doom-laden headline. For me the true picture must take account of data for a full 12 month period and land registry is the one source of the truth based as it is on completed transactions.

In January 2018, Oxford house prices were 5% higher over the last 12 months. So Oxford didn't follow London in the doldrums as some (a hem...including me) predicted could happen in 2017. But, the number of completed transactions was down 21% with just 2,618 house sales being completed. The average price achieved was £422,055 meaning Oxford and Cambridge were the only two UK cities other than London to have an average price beginning with a '4'. Oxford

remains the least affordable UK city when average house price is compared to average income earned in the City.

Central OX1 experienced the largest fall in transaction volumes, down a quarter, with OX4 down just 11%. But OX5 average price was up just 1% when OX2 was up 11%. The spread on average price was £233,742 with OX2 dragging-up the average. OX4 saw the highest number of completed transactions. (SEE TABLE A: LAND REGISTRY DATA)

But post code areas are still too large to get a sufficiently granular understanding of what's going on out there. And, it is always good policy to look at data from different sources. So let's look at some of Oxford's key areas using data from Rightmove. This data is based on properties sold on Rightmove rather than the whole market.

The table [or graph] below shows average price achieved for 14 of Oxford's best known residential areas, and also how those averages have changed

compared to the prior 12-month period. Straight away it can be seen that each post code can hide enormous variation in average values and in the change over a 12-month period. Prices in OX1 have changed by between -8% in Kennington to +15% on Grandpont. The only consistently positive shift in prices was seen in OX4 with Rose Hill, Littlemore and Cowley each in positive territory. The worst performing sub-market was Kennington and the best performing Grandpont, closely followed by Marston, Rose Hill and Littlemore. All strong owner-occupier markets offering a good range of affordable homes. (SEE TABLE B: RIGHT-



## MOVE DATA)

So what about the rental market I hear landlord readers ask? Across Oxford average rents rose by just 1% compared the prior year averaging £1,207 per calendar month. But this too hides some variation between property type. Detached home rents rose 3.1%; semi-detached 3.2%; terraced 3.7%; and, flats 0.16%. So it

can be seen that Oxford apartments which were over 45% of all tenancies, were impacted more than other property types. So why was that? My own opinion is that the negativity surrounding Brexit adversely impacted demand from foreign nationals wanting to study in Oxford, undermining demand for central Oxford apartments.

It's millennials who are driving demand for Oxford rentals, at least that's the common narrative. But in fact, the average age of an Oxford tenant is 33. 50% of all demand comes from people over the age of 29 and 22% from people over the age of 39. So in reality the demand for rental properties is shifting to include young families who need 3 and 4 bedroom properties in areas with schools, easy access to schools and good road and rail links.

I'd be delighted to hear from any reader keen to find out more about the Oxford property market, and please do visit [www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk](http://www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk) for more of my thoughts about the market.

Bill Cooper is Managing Director of Martin & Co in Oxford and Kidlington, and the author of [www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk](http://www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk).

Table A: Land registry data

	Number of transactions	Change in transactions	Average achieved price	Change in value
<b>OX5</b>	344	-14%	£347,302	1%
<b>OX4</b>	586	-11%	£354,791	6%
<b>OX3</b>	401	-16%	£412,904	6%
<b>OX2</b>	472	-17%	£588,533	11%
<b>OX1</b>	187	-25%	£452,213	3%
<b>Oxford</b>	2847	-14%	£422,055	5%

Table B: Rightmove data

	Post code	Average value	Change in value
<b>Kidlington</b>	OX5	£346,859	0%
<b>Littlemore</b>		£323,315	9%
<b>Rose Hill</b>		£354,855	10%
<b>Cowley</b>	OX4	£392,723	4%
<b>Headington</b>		£420,503	0%
<b>Marston</b>		£516,692	13%
<b>Barton</b>	OX3	£299,542	-4%
<b>Wolvercote</b>		£479,036	6%
<b>Summertown</b>		£871,561	8%
<b>Jericho</b>		£960,524	0%
<b>Botley</b>	OX2	£436,654	-4%
<b>Grandpont</b>		£493,985	15%
<b>Kennington</b>		£385,471	-8%
<b>New Hinksey</b>	OX1	£516,334	4%



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# Open day at Astrop Grange

Astrop Grange is a modern development of 10 two bedroomed apartments in the picturesque village of King's Sutton, South Northamptonshire. All for shared ownership for those over the age of 55, the elegant apartments are set in a traditional style country home on the site of a former Georgian manor house.

Matthew Platt was the first person to move into Astrop Grange. In need of a place of his own where his two children could visit, he was keen to find somewhere he could call home

after having rented for some time.

"King's Sutton is such a lovely location. There are two pubs, a post office and a convenience store and lots of lovely areas nearby where you can take a walk.

"It's so quiet here, but still accessible to the motorway and rail network. This is a necessity for me as, being a freelance musician and piano teacher, I am required to travel frequently.

"I enjoy coming back home though; it's a place where I can really relax and enjoy my surroundings. My apartment

is modern and smart, solid and warm and very low maintenance.

"Shared ownership has been a truly affordable option; it's a good way to own your own home when money is short. It was a lifesaver for me.

"I love my apartment, as do my friends and family. It's absolutely perfect."

If you're over 55 and, like Matthew, want to find your perfect home, come along to our Astrop Grange Open Day event on Saturday 10 March, 11am to 3pm.





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**DIDCOT** An outstanding double-fronted detached house located close to the centre of town. The accommodation boasts generous proportions and would serve as an ideal family home. Available with no onward chain. EPC Rating C

**£625,000** Didcot office 01235 818371



**UPTON** A four bedroom grade II listed period cottage nestled in the heart of this sought after semi rural village and set on a generous plot. EPC Rating Exempt

**£625,000** Didcot office 01235 818371



**EWELME** Quietly tucked away in the historic village of Ewelme, this attached 2 double bedroomed cottage is beautifully presented and has a stylish modern finish. EPC Rating B

**£525,000** Wallingford office 01491 833323



**CHOLSEY** Two bedroom detached bungalow available with no onward chain. The property provides garage and off road parking, and is located just 0.3 miles from Cholsey train station and 0.2 miles from the village centre. EPC Rating D

**£425,000** Wallingford office 01491 833323



**WANTAGE** A well proportioned and presented, individually architect designed detached home. Including oak doors throughout, zoned under floor heating downstairs and open plan kitchen/diner with bi-fold doors. EPC Rating B

**£375,000** Wantage office 01235 772670



**DIDCOT** A well presented end of terrace house in a quiet cul de sac location. The property is conveniently situated for access to town centre amenities and Didcot Parkway station. parking. EPC Rating D

**£279,950** Didcot office 01235 818371



**WANTAGE** A superbly presented top floor apartment within this highly regarded and well situated development. Two double bedrooms, en-suite, open plan living and parking. EPC Rating C

**£215,000** Wantage office 01235 772670



**EAST CHALLOW** A stunning executive four bedroom detached home situated in this desirable village location. In superb condition throughout, detached double garage and ample driveway parking. EPC Rating B

**£475,000** Wantage office 01235 772670



**WANTAGE** An immaculately presented first floor apartment located close to Wantage market place. Open plan living with two double bedrooms, one with ensuite and wardrobes. Available mid April. Unfurnished. EPC Rating B

**£1,075 p.c.m + fees** Wantage office 01235 772670



**DIDCOT** A two bedroom end of terrace house set within a pleasant cul-de-sac on the popular Ladygrove estate and within the catchment area for Ladygrove Park School. Pets considered. Available beginning of May. Unfurnished. EPC Rating C

**£925 p.c.m + fees** Didcot office 01235 818371



**DIDCOT** A well presented two bedroom end of terraced house situated on the popular Ladygrove development. This property includes two double bedrooms, garage and a car parking space. Unfurnished. Available mid-May. EPC Rating C

**£910 p.c.m + fees** Didcot office 01235 818371



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**BICESTER PARK HOME ESTATE £185,000**



A well presented 2015 Prestige Sonata II 35' x 22'3 twin unit set in low maintenance gardens on this recently established park home site just south of Bicester town centre. Hall, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with en-suite shower room), bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors, Decra style roof, brick built skirt and steps, low maintenance gardens, on-site car parking space

**KINGS COPSE, GARSINGTON £169,950**



A superbly presented 2015 Tingdene Hayden Classic 28' x 16' twin unit in attractive gardens. Lounge, kitchen/diner, bedroom, en-suite shower room, metered LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, Decra style roof, textured walls, attractive gardens, on-site car parking space

**SHILLINGFORD HILL, WALLINGFORD £197,500**



A well presented 2004 Stateley Tredegar 42' x 20' (maximum L-shaped) twin unit set in enclosed gardens on this sought after Thameside "Quality Award" & private park. Porch, hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, 2 good bedrooms, wet room, oil radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors, Decra style roof, textured walls, UPVC boarded skirt, on-site car parking, enclosed gardens

**BICESTER PARK HOME ESTATE £150,000**



A circa 2000 Stately Albion 40' x 20' twin unit on enclosed pitch. Porch, hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, 2 good bedrooms, shower room, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazing, on-site car parking, gardens

**THE WILLOWS, GROVE £84,500**



A 1999 Homeseeker Quantock 40' x 20' twin unit on established private park, close to village centre. Hall, small study/store area, 20' lounge/diner, kitchen, inner hall, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with en-suite shower room), bathroom, mains gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazing, Decra style roof, low maintenance gardens, driveway, garage

**THAMESIDE COURT, BABLOCKHYTHE £180,000**



A brand new 2016 Prestige Concerto 36' x 20' twin unit on favoured private park, close to River Thames. Hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, inner hall, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with en-suite shower room), bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors, carpets, curtains and furnishings, on-site parking, brick built skirt and steps, gardens

**ST MARY'S COURT, £179,950 BAMPTON**



**BLEWBURY, DIDCOT £145,000**



A superbly presented 2011 Tingdene Muslo Lodge 42' x 20' twin unit pleasantly situated on this established and popular private park. Porch hall, superb L-shaped lounge/diner, study, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with dressing room adjoining), luxury bathroom/shower room, LPG gas radiator central heating, wood-effect flooring throughout, UPVC double glazed Georgian style windows and doors, textured external walls, Decra style roof, brick built skirt and steps, gravelled driveway and gravelled car parking space, low maintenance gardens

A 2008 Homeseeker 32' x 20' twin unit set in low maintenance gardens with 2 on-site driveways on private park situated in the heart of this sought after village. Hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, mains gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors, coved ceilings, textured external walls, brick built skirt and steps, Decra style roof, enclosed low maintenance gardens with 2 on-site driveways, additional communal car parking nearby

**THE WILLOWS, GROVE £99,500**



**SANDFORD ON THAMES £84,000**



A 1986 Tingdene 36' x 20' twin unit in need of some updating set on corner plot on established private park. Hall, 17' lounge, dining area, kitchen, 2 good bedrooms, bathroom, mains gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazing, Decra style roof, brick built skirt, low maintenance gardens, communal car parking to front

A much improved and well-extended 1970's Donnington 43' x 10' single unit backing onto fields. Hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed replacement windows, Decra style roof, gardens, on-site car parking space

**FOXHALL MANOR £88,500 PARK, DIDCOT**



**THAMESIDE COURT, £130,000 BABLOCKHYTHE**



A spacious 1976 Stateley Sceptre 36' x 20' twin unit on good sized plot. Lobby, hall, 17' lounge, 18' kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, LPG gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, Decra style roof, brick built skirt, low maintenance gardens, on-site parking for several cars

A much improved mid 1970's Lissett Lodge 30' x 20' twin unit with open views over farmland to rear on favoured private park. Inner hall, 19'6 lounge/diner, kitchen, 2 good bedrooms, re-fitted shower room, LPG gas radiator central heating with combi boiler, UPVC double glazed windows and doors, textured walls, Decra style roof, gardens with on-site parking

**FOXHALL MANOR £99,950 PARK, DIDCOT**



A much improved early 1980s Donnington 36' x 20' twin unit on established park. Hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, 2 good bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC, metered LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed replacement windows, Decra style roof, low maintenance gardens, car parking space to side.

**'I can do all things**

**through Christ, who**

**strengthens me.'**

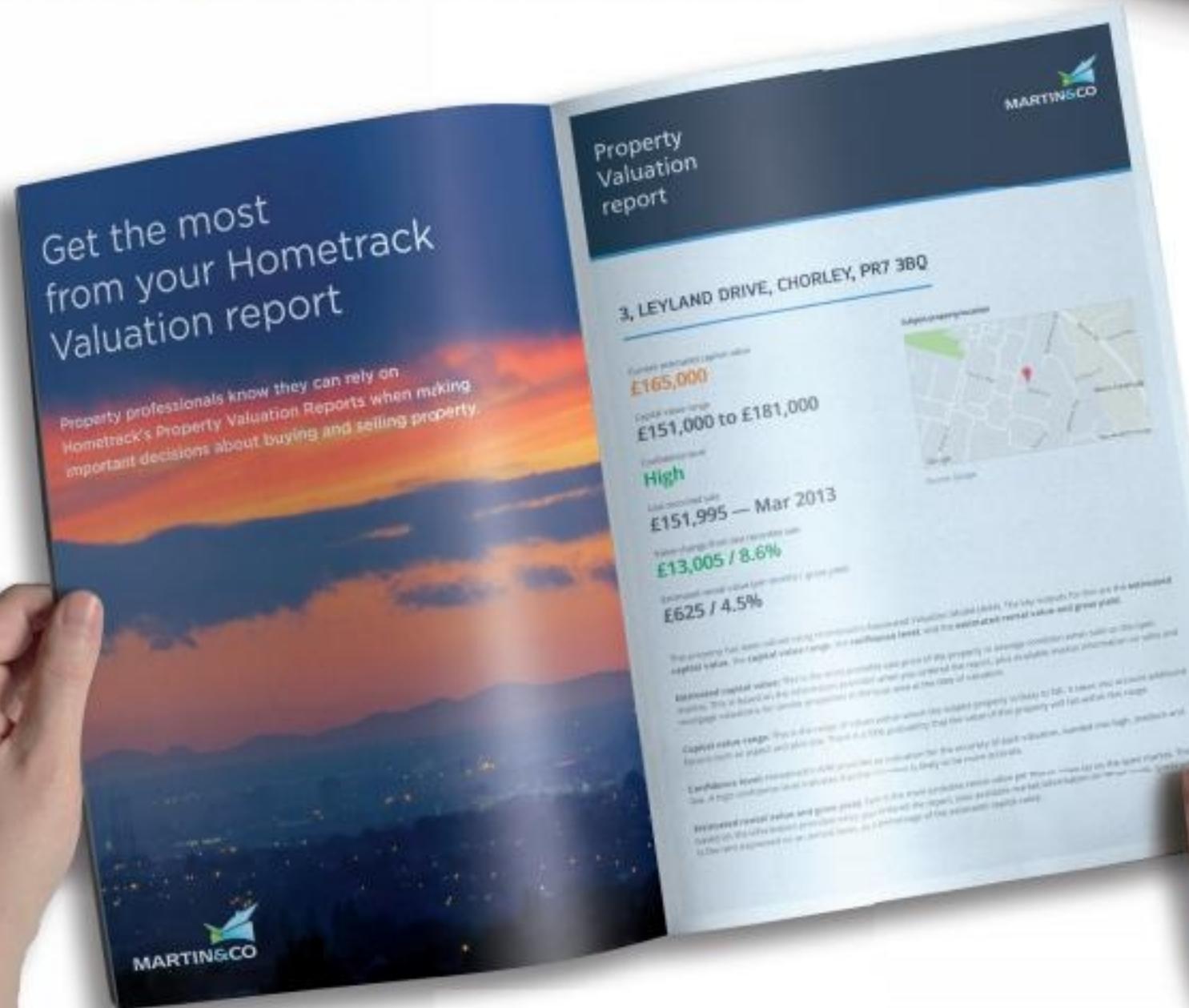
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BMW 520d M Sport Saloon

## We all need one of these in our lives

By Tony Yates

FOR some reason, it's been a while since I reviewed a BMW, and for reasons, I can't explain. Although, I think it might be because I'm pretty busy with everything else right about now.

Well thankfully, this week I have some spare time and I managed to borrow a lovely 520d M Sport for this week's review, which means you get a lovely BMW review written by me in all its glory. You have to remember - I'm not here to convince you to buy any of the cars I review, I'm merely here to point out the bits that I find interesting and the parts that I feel are worth taking a look at. The funny thing is, I get asked all the time what is the best car to buy, and I always say 'any one that takes your fancy'.

### Power & efficiency

The 520d I had on test was powered by a TwinPower Turbo four-cylinder diesel engine with 190hp (140kW) which produces sharp responsiveness with the added bonus of 400Nm of torque that

easily manages to complete the 0-62 mph sprint in just 7.5 seconds, yet returns a combined 60+ mpg - which you have to admit is pretty amazing. I am also going to be bold here and say that it really is a brilliant engine and BMW have done a fantastic job of wringing out every last bit of horsepower.

### On the road

As you would expect the 520d handling is poised thanks to the BMW engineers setting up the suspension with perfect precision, although the ride can in itself be a little soft, which to be honest, is just how I like it. Don't be fooled though by its soft ride. All that is needed is the push of a few buttons and the 520d suddenly becomes an aggressive animal in all the right places.

As long as I can remember, the 5 Series has always had a lovely soothing ride, along with a perfect and well-balanced chassis that is right behind you when you are truly giving it the beans around a tight corner. Coming into this review, I was so worried that the 5 series might have lost some of its BMW DNA.



Well, thankfully, it has not.

### Equipment, safety & technology

As you would expect from BMW, the cabin materials are exceptional quality and this runs right through the veins of the 520d. There is even more good news - because it looks like BMW really have listened to what their customers

want. It's not just lush inside the cabin, it's beautiful, which is a big thumbs up from me to the BMW designers. Plus, I love how all the dials and switches are set out in such a way that the driver will always feel they have fingertip control with everything they do, which is what driving a BMW is all about - 'being effortless to drive'.

Also, being an M Sport, there's plenty of standard kit - like. 18" light alloy M Double-spoke style 662 M wheels. Exte-

rior trim in high-gloss Shadowline, LED fog lights, M aerodynamic bodystyling, M designation on front side panels, left and right.

Door sill finishers with illuminated M designation, headlining in Anthracite, the instrument panel in Sensatec, interior trim in Aluminium Rhombicle with Pearl Chrome highlight, M specific floor-mats, M specific pedals and M specific steering wheel and pretty much everything else you see is in M Spec also.

There is also an abundance of BMW driver assistance systems that cover a wide range of functions in the 520d, all combining an intelligent combination of different technologies to enhance safety, comfort and efficiency.

### To sum up

I like the 520d M Sport - thanks mainly to how it makes you feel when you drive it. Actually, I'm not sure it could get any better. Once again BMW has proved why the 520d M Sport is a car that ticks all the boxes for the modern driver and why I think everyone needs one in their life.

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Additional information about the individual models is available on request

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Youtube channel, which is now the fastest growing shooting Youtube channel in the world. The Shooting Channel link can be found by logging on to: [https://youtu.be/\\_UNjq7fQtGs](https://youtu.be/_UNjq7fQtGs)

For more information about MG Cars please phone or email Darren Corps (Head Of Sales) 01865 326666 or [cars@lodgehillgarage.com](mailto:cars@lodgehillgarage.com) and for more information about The Schools Challenge or The Oxford Gun Company please phone David on 01844 238 308 or email: [David@oxfordguncompany.com](mailto:David@oxfordguncompany.com).

.co.uk

Nigel Murrin MD of Lodge Hill Garage and Doug Florent of the Oxford Gun Company launched the partnership of the two companies at the Oxford Gun Company's grounds in Oakley Oxfordshire.

Two MG 3's will be given away as first prizes in the School's Challenge; one for top boy and one for top girl. Nigel said on the day 'It's a great opportunity for two local companies to join together to promote their products.'



## LODGE HILL GARAGE ABINGDON



01865 326666

[cars@lodgehillgarage.com](mailto:cars@lodgehillgarage.com)

[www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk](http://www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk)



Lodge Hill Garage, Oxford Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2JD. Opening times: Mon–Fri 8–5, Sat Appointment only, Sun Closed.

We now do mechanical work onsite.

We service and repair ALL makes of cars.

Onsite 4x4 specialist team too.

**MOT – now with fluid check JUST £50**

**REPAIR, SERVICING, DIAGNOSTICS & AIR CONDITIONING**  
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Or call For More Info

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TEL: 01993 775545 • MOB: 07786 100257



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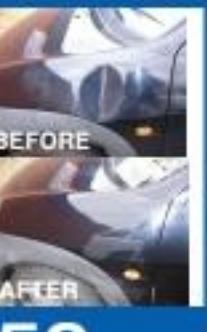
# AutoWeekly

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LODGE HILL GARAGE  
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01865 326666

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# AutoWeekly

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379 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 2BS

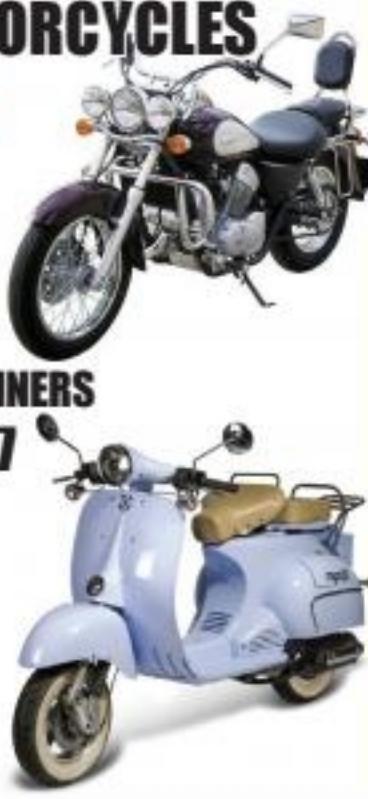
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# AutoWeekly

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**Sales telephone: 01367 710 100**

Forecourt Location: Vale Garage, Faringdon Road, Stanford in the Vale, nr Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 8HN  
Email: [valegarage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:valegarage@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.valegarage.com](http://www.valegarage.com)



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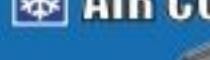
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CHARLES and Dianna wedding two commemorative goblets still boxed £20 after 4pm tel: 01865 340878

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max@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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2nd April - 6th April.....£150	30th April - 4th May.....£161

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**GARDEN** tools fork spade shovel and other bits £10 pole hedge cutter electric heavy duty £35 tel: 01685 433089

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**MCCULLOCH** electrical chain saw good condition £20 tel: 01235 835608

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**PLAYER** piano rous £6 each tel: 01256 467527

**WANTED** country artists/country birds collection bird ornaments tel: 01235 533363

**CLAUD** butler racing bike 14 gears good condition offers tel: 01235 533363

**JAMES** Bond's Pierce Brosnan BP advert display signed in black marker £40 tel: 01189 667940

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**TRENCH** style mac 14-16 dark green £10 tel: 01235 523162

**POPLIN** jackets size 14 £10 tel: 01235 523162

**M&S** Woolen Navy Blazer £15 tel: 01235 523162

**MAMOD** traction engine tel: 01235 523162

**DELUX** four wheeled mobility walker with seat and brakes lightweight but sturdy folds flatter than usual type £60 tel: 01865 327635

**SLIDING** glass w/ door doors two cream and coloured one mirrored to fit recess 2.3m x 2.36 buyer collects £60 tel: 01491 281281

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**DC** rack black metal H 125 holds 75 very compact rack it's a space saver £7 tel: 07980403171

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**SLIDING** glass w/ door doors two cream and coloured one mirrored to fit recess 2.3m x 2.36 buyer collects £60 tel: 01491 281281

**WALKING** running exercise machine not electric £10 tel: 07514 661646

**MOBILITY** scooter free oldish needs battery buyer collects does work need clean and oiling up tel: 01235 821338

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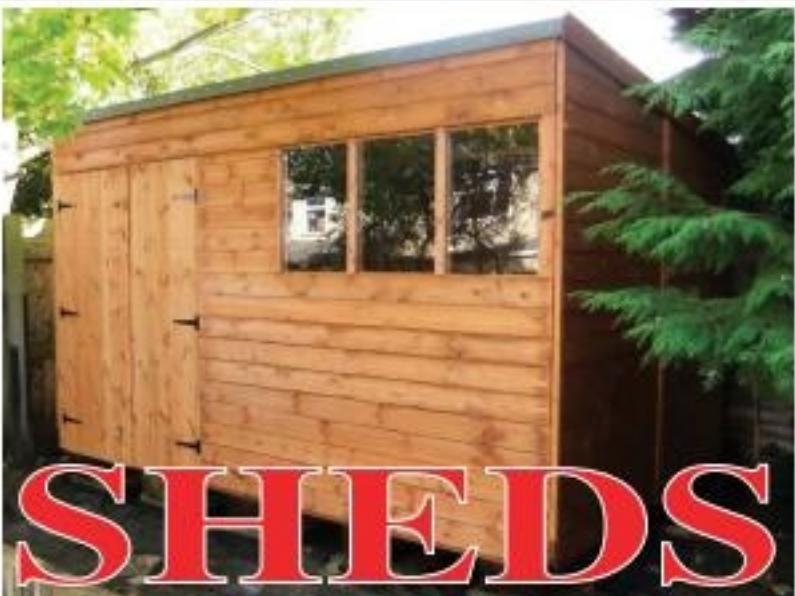
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# Teams' testing hots up in Spain

By George Welch

## F1

LAST week they were building snowmen, this week it is sandcastles as normal weather returned for the second week of Formula 1 testing.

More appropriate Spanish weather at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya meant all 10 teams could really stretch the legs of their new cars for the first time.

The flashy new cars hit the circuit for the four-day tester on Tuesday, with positive vibes coming from all three Oxfordshire teams.

Lance Stroll believes the Williams FW41 is a big improvement on last year's challenger, but it is how everybody else has improved that will determine how the Grove-based outfit will fare in a tight mid-field battle.

Sirokin recorded a respectable time on Tuesday morning after contesting bodywork and balance issues while Stroll, in the cockpit for the afternoon, completed a race

distance for the first time. Together they managed 131 laps.

Stroll, who won't look too much into being adrift at the bottom of the timesheet on the first day, said: "I have the first race distance of the year under my belt now and it was positive.

"I believe we have made a step forward compared to where we were last year. I don't know where we will be compared to everyone else, but compared to last year's car, it definitely feels quite a bit better."

Chief technical officer Paddy Lowe added: "We're very happy to cover a lot of laps, including our first race distance with the FW41 without incident."

Renault might be closest to the top three as Nico Hulkenberg, again sharing duty with Carlos Sainz, let his team-mate do most of the talking.

Chief technical officer Bob Bell described Hulkenberg's session as "scrappy" as the Enstone team spent longer than anticipated in the garage with the second chassis.

Banbury-based Haas appear to have made a strong start to 2018,



Nico Hulkenberg puts the Renault through its paces  
Picture: Renault Sport Formula One Team

Kevin Magnussen looking initially more comfortable with the car than Romain Grosjean.

Magnussen, who managed 96 laps out on his own on Tuesday, said: "I'd

say it was our first proper day. I'm happy and positive after the day."

Testing continues until tomorrow (Friday) as teams prepare for lights out in Melbourne on March 25.

## Jaguar seal another good performance to go third

## Formula E

ANOTHER consistent performance and a record points haul in Mexico City lifted Jaguar up to third in the Formula E team standings.

The Grove-based outfit scooped 20 points – their best return in a season and a bit in the sport – to overtake DS

Virgin Racing.

Brazilian Nelson Piquet Jr battled it out for a podium finish with Renault e.dams driver Sébastien Buemi but had to settle for fourth, while team-mate Mitch Evans climbed from a 12th-placed start to cross the line in sixth.

Piquet, who described the race in South America as "solid", admits he needs to improve on his P8 start to

make the podium.

Evans added: "It was a good race for us. I started 12th and finished sixth so I'm definitely happy with that."

Piquet and Evans remain fifth and seventh in the drivers' championship respectively.

Meanwhile, Grove-based driver Alex Lynn finished 10th for his DS Virgin Racing team.

The 24-year-old's solitary point was the team's only one after team-mate and drivers' championship hopeful Sam Bird battled with penalties and a collision with Renault e.dams driver Nico Prost. He finished outside the points in 17th.

Punta del Este in Uruguay is the setting for the sixth E-Prix of the season on March 17.

## 'As prepared as we can be' ahead of season opener

## MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith is ready and raring to go for the new season after completing pre-season testing in Qatar last week.

The three-day tester was the last of three sessions ahead of the season opener at the same Losail

International Circuit on March 18.

Forest Hill rider Smith had a small crash on the second day but picked himself up again on Saturday for the final round to record his and his team's best time.

The 27-year-old's 1.150 seconds off leader Johann Zarco left him in 14th place, his best return from all three pre-season tests.

"It's nice to finally finish the tests and iron out some of the details ready for the start of the season," Smith, looking forward to the new season, said.

"We are already 1.2 seconds faster than we were last year here, so we have to be very pleased."

He added: "We've made good progress over the last 12 months and

we can be proud.

"We'll now see what the race weekend brings. We are as prepared as we can be."

Team-mate Pol Espargaro, who returned to the KTM RC16 after injuring himself in Malaysia in January, finished 20th (+1.460) while test driver Mika Kallio was 25th (+3.189).

## Hard work pays off for successful club swimmers at meet

## Swimming

ABINGDON Vale Swimming Club enjoyed a successful county championships breaking seven club records during the four-weekend long event.

AVSC boasted more than 60 swimmers competing in the Oxford and North Bucks County Championships.

Between them, they achieved 132 top eight placings, delivered 223 personal bests, and gained 50 regional qualifying times.

Head coach Amanda Ford said: "Our results this year have been achieved due to our emphasis on process goals. As well as coaching swimming, we teach swimmers the value of hard work, consistency of skills focus and team spirit.

"It's great to see all these things coming together so well."



hard work of our coaches, the support of our committee and our swimmers, and the commitment of our parent helpers who get stuck in when needed with enthusiasm.

"It's great to see all these things coming together so well."



Stand out performances came from Bethan Lillistone, 11, who picked up four silver and one bronze medal, and Natalia Druett, 15, who won six age group medals.

Natalia also finished first in the Junior and second in the Open



Championships for 100 metre breaststroke.

Lottie James, 14, won a total of 11 age group medals, including six golds, while Joseph Bradshaw, 20, finished second in the 50m freestyle Open Championship.

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## History-making win for Brookes

## Rowing

OXFORD Brookes University Boat Club's Rowing 1st and 2nd men's eights made history on Sunday when they beat crews from Boat Race hopefuls Cambridge University on the Tideway.

It is the first time that a Brookes crew has beaten both Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race crews in the same year.

The Cambridge Blue Boat won the toss and elected to take the Surrey station for both pieces.

It was Cambridge who scored the first blow, and by Fulham FC's Craven Cottage, the light blues led by around half a length.

As both crews came straight into the final stages of the race, Brookes pushed hard, and quickly came back level.

By the end of piece, Brookes had gained a lead of a full length.

After a short break the crews lined up alongside Chiswick Eyot to start the second piece.

Cambridge moved out to a slight lead but as the course straightened out, Brookes had moved through.

Brookes were able to push out to a lead of half a length, which they extended to a full length for a thrilling, hard fought finish.

Brookes Rowing race again this weekend, with both the Head of the River Race and the Women's eights Head of the River Race.

# Happy to be back on the pitch after injury

By George Welch

CROCKED midfielder Ivo Pekalski is on the comeback trail after making his first couple of appearances since injuring his knee a week after joining the club last summer.

The Swedish international played an hour in a behind-closed-doors friendly against QPR last week before playing 72 minutes against Oxford City in Tuesday night's 1-0 defeat at Court Place Farm in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup semi-final on Tuesday.

The delighted 27-year-old said after the 2-2 draw with QPR: "I was happy about returning to the pitch. After being out for six and a half months it was a big step."

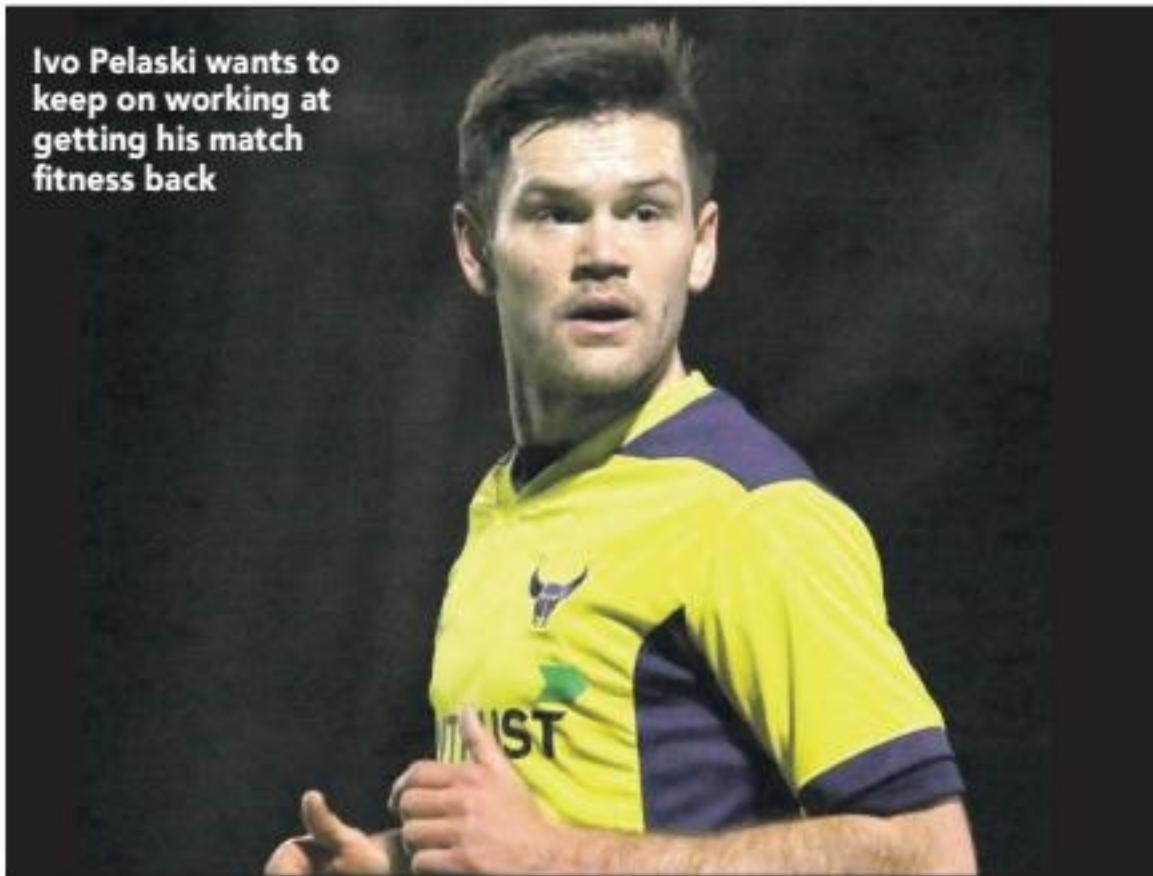
"You can do things in the gym but you never [beat] the feeling as the game. I'm happy about it and I just want to keep on working."

Pekalski is hopeful of making a first team appearance before the end of the season, although the club want him to get more minutes under his belt before he is considered for the first team.

But the Swede is refusing to set timelines.

He said: "It's very important to do this step-by-step. I'm happy for now but it will take time to get into top shape."

"It's only by day-by-day work. I



Ivo Pekalski wants to keep on working at getting his match fitness back

would love to say 'this day I'm there' but it's a process."

Also making their comebacks in the last couple of weeks were Mike Williamson and Cameron Brannagan.

First teamers Canice Carroll and Malachi Napa also featured alongside the youngsters on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, promising young goalkeeper Jack Stevens has signed a new deal to keep him at the U's until at least the summer of 2019.

The 20-year-old stopper has enjoyed a memorable season, starring on loan

at Oxford City in their FA Cup run before winning rave reviews since joining Tamworth in January.

Stevens said he was "more than happy to sign a new deal", adding: "The club has been fantastic and I want to push on from here and try to earn more chances in the first team squad if I can."

■ United travel to 19th-placed AFC Wimbledon in a massive game on Saturday and are next in action at Grenoble Road against Peterborough United on March 17.



Pep Clotet even treated himself to a new suit prior to getting back into football. Pictures: Pep Clotet/@pepclotet

## Blues role a good fit for Pep

SIX weeks since his sacking, ex-Oxford United boss Pep Clotet has managed to bag another job – and treat himself to a new suit – while his former club plods along with its manager hunt.

The Spaniard, sacked by the U's in January, has been reunited with Garry Monk at Championship strugglers Birmingham City.

Clotet will be Monk's assistant, as he was at Swansea City and Leeds United prior to his seven-month stint at the Kassam. He has signed a contract until 2021.

"It is great to be back with Pep," Monk, sacked by Middlesbrough in December, said. "He brings a wealth of experience, he's a very good coach and he will bring that to these players and the staff as well."

Former Accrington Stanley gaffer James Beattie and ex-goalkeeper Darryl Flahavan have also joined the Blues' backroom staff following Steve Cotterill's sacking on Saturday.

## Van Kessel in line for call-up to Curacao national squad

OXFORD United forward Gino van Kessel has been provisionally named in the Curacao squad for two games against Bolivia.

The 24-year-old, on loan from Slavia Prague, has scored seven goals in 17 games for his country and has been chosen in the pre-selection group for

the games in Curacao against Bolivia on March 23 and 26.

Head coach Remko Bicentini will announce the final selection tomorrow (Friday).

Van Kessel has scored five goals in 21 games for the U's in all competitions this season. His last

goal came in the 3-1 home win over Milton Keynes Dons on New Year's Day.

If selected it would be the second call up for United players this month after Shandon Baptiste was called-up for the Grenada squad to play Belize on March 22.

## Tough decision to let midfielder Pearce go

OXFORD City boss Mark Jones admitted releasing David Pearce was 'a very tough decision' to make.

The winger found himself out of favour following a change in system and departed Court Place Farm last week.

Pearce, who has already signed for Chesham United, will be remembered fondly by City fans for his impact in their historic FA Cup run to the second round proper.

The midfielder scored a crucial second equaliser against Leiston before providing valuable assists in wins over Bognor Regis Town (fourth qualifying round) and Colchester United (first round).

Pearce was a regular this season, making 32 appearances for the Hoops, including 28 starts and four substitute appearances, scoring four goals.

It was his consistency in the team that meant "it was not an easy decision to let Dave go," gaffer Jones said.

"I've got a lot of time for Dave, he's a very good player with a good attitude, and I've enjoyed working with him



David Pearce crosses for Matt Paterson's winner against Colchester United in the FA Cup first round. Picture: Michael Allen

over the past seven or eight months.

"I felt that with our change of shape, playing with three up front, that he's fighting against Matt Paterson, Sam Nombe, Ezra Forde, Zac McEachran

and Rob Sinclair, I just felt that his opportunities would be limited."

City host second-placed Havant & Waterlooville on Saturday as they chase a fourth successive league win.

	SkyBet League 1	GP	GD	PTS
1	Blackburn Rovers	36	32	73
2	Shrewsbury Town	34	19	68
3	Wigan Athletic	32	39	67
4	Rotherham United	34	19	62
5	Scunthorpe United	36	10	57
6	Plymouth Argyle	35	1	53
7	Charlton Athletic	33	2	51
8	Peterborough United	34	9	50
9	Bradford City	34	-3	50
10	Bristol Rovers	35	-2	49
11	Portsmouth	35	-2	49
12	Gillingham	35	0	46
13	Walsall	36	-5	44
14	Southend United	34	-12	44
15	Doncaster Rovers	35	-1	42
16	Oxford United	34	-2	42
17	Blackpool	34	-2	42
18	Oldham Athletic	34	-10	39
19	AFC Wimbledon	35	-12	38
20	Northampton Town	35	-22	38
21	Fleetwood Town	34	-11	37
22	MK Dons	35	-16	32
23	Rochdale	31	-9	29
24	Bury	34	-12	29



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# Left-field appointment on the horizon as search continues

**Tiger** plans one more face-to-face meeting with contenders

By George Welch

NEW Oxford United owner Sumith 'Tiger' Thanakarnjanasuth will meet the potential new manager this week, as the club's search for a new boss drags on.

No one can blame irritated U's fans for getting impatient as the managerless side edges towards the League One relegation zone.

The hunt for Pep Clotet's replacement has extended into its sixth week as the new owner, despite promising a new appointment last week, calls for patience.

Tiger called for more time last week as interviews with shortlisted candidates continued.

In an update on Tuesday, he said he wants to meet a candidate one more time 'towards the end of the week' before finalising a deal.

He said: "I have talked to some outstanding candidates over the last week or so and just want one more opportunity to meet them face-to-face towards the end of the week.

"I am not old school - I can communicate in a number of ways and am working every day on this and if we can conclude things quickly that's great."

In an ambitious twist, the Thai businessman said that, if the new boss wins 10 out of 12 matches, the play-offs are still in reach.

Twelve games remain of the League One season, suggesting a new man could be in the dugout by Saturday's trip to AFC Wimbledon.

Tiger added: "We are looking for

## Names in the frame

### Latest odds from SkyBet:

Patrick Kluivert	11/10
Steve McLaren	9/4
Brian McDermott	5/2
Michael Beale	14/1
Alan Stubbs	16/1
Mark Warburton	25/1

the right man to make an immediate impact and lift things.

"I want to make the fans so proud of this club and to do that I will always aim high."

"At the very least we will have a manager in place for the last 10 or 11 games who will have a chance to get to know the players, the coaching staff and the club and be able to see the full picture so they are not starting from zero this summer."

United are in wretched form though and, just five points above the trapdoor, look like they will be involved in a relegation battle.

The Yellows were 10th, eight points off both the play-offs and the bottom four, when Clotet was sacked.

Tiger could make another left field appointment, with Netherlands legend Patrick Kluivert now the favourite to get the job.

The Yellow Army fans group member Simon Hathaway told talkSPORT this week that he is wary but not against a left field selection.

"I don't think fans would be too upset with a left field appointment, we'll just have to wait and see how it goes," he said.

## City put United through the hoop

Oxford City goal scorer Matt Paterson with United's Ivo Pekalski  
Picture: Steve Daniels



OXFORD City claimed bragging rights over neighbours Oxford United thanks to a shot from distance in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup semi-final on Tuesday.

Hoops striker Matt Paterson's 21st goal of the season gave the home side a 1-0 victory to set up a final clash with either Banbury United or Kidlington who play the other semi-final next week.

Manager Mark Jones said: "I'm

pleased for Matt because he's had some bad news this week, his grandfather passed away yesterday and it hit him hard. It was touch and go whether he could play tonight.

"But he got out there for us and scored the winning goal so I'm sure he'll dedicate that one to his granddad."

"We had another bit of bad news with [general manager] Justin Merritt's father passing away on

Sunday as well so our condolences go to the two families."

"But on the football side of things, it's nice to get the winning habit, it's four wins on the spin."

"Our aim is to go and produce a good performance on Saturday and see if we can keep kicking on in the league."

City face a daunting trip to second placed Havant and Waterlooville on Saturday.

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